

1954

Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol. 33, Issue 1

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>
University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1954) "Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol. 33, Issue 1," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol33/iss1/1>

**The
FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Volume XXXIII

July 1954 -April 1955

Published by the
FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CONTENTS OF VOLUME XXXIII

ARTICLES AND AUTHORS

- Asi-Yaholo or Osceola*: Mark F. Boyd; 249
Boyd, Mark F.: *Asi-Yaholo or Osceola*; 249
Case of Some Inhabitants of East Florida, 1767-1785: Barbara Gorely Teller; 97
Coe, Charles H.: *Parentage of Osceola*; 202
Covington, James W.: *Cuban Bloodhounds and the Seminoles*; 111
Cuban Bloodhounds and the Seminoles: James W. Covington; 111
Disappearance of the Head of Osceola: May McNeer Ward; 193
Doherty, Herbert J., Jr.: *The Governorship of Andrew Jackson*; 3
Florida and the British Investor, 1880-1914: Alfred P. Tischendorf; 120
Florida Executive Council: An Experiment in Civil War Administration: William C. Havard; 77
Florida Historical Society; 54, 153
Goggin, John M.: *Osceola: Portraits, Features, and Dress*; 161
Governorship of Andrew Jackson: Herbert J. Doherty, Jr.; 3
Havard, William C.: *The Florida Executive Council: An Experiment in Civil War Administration*; 77
Hering, Julia: *Plantation Economy in Leon County, 1830-1840*; 32
High School Essay Contest: *History of White City, Florida*: Sandra Lewis; 48
Historical Association of Southern Florida; 51
Jacksonville Historical Society; 51
Lewis, Sandra: *History of White City, Florida*; 48
Marchman, Watt P. (ed.): *A Trip to Florida, 1867: Three Letters of Mary R. Birchard*; 142
Massachusetts Mechanic in Florida and Mexico - 1847: Arthur W. Thompson
Neill, Wilfred T.: *The Site of Osceola's Village in Marion County, Florida*; 240
Notes on Modern Seminole Traditions of Osceola: William C. Sturtevant; 206
Osceola and the Charlestonians; 247
Osceola and the Negroes: Kenneth W. Porter; 235
Osceola: Portraits, Features, and Dress: John M. Goggin; 161
Parentage of Osceola: Charles H. Coe; 202
Plantation Economy in Leon County, 1830-1840: Julia Hering; 32
Porter, Kenneth W.: *Osceola and the Negroes*; 235
St. Augustine Historical Society; 52
Site of Osceola's Village in Marion County, Florida: Wilfred T. Neill; 240
Sturtevant, William C.: *Notes on Modern Seminole Traditions of Osceola*; 206
Tallahassee Historical Society; 52
Teller, Barbara Gorely: *The Case of Some Inhabitants of East Florida, 1767-1785*; 97
Thompson, Arthur W.: *A Massachusetts Mechanic in Florida and Mexico*

-1847; 130

Tischendorf, Alfred P.: *Florida and the British Investor, 1880-1914*; 120
Trip to Florida, 1867: Three Letters of Mary R. Birchard: Watt P. March-
man (ed.); 142

Ward, May McNeer: *The Disappearance of the Head of Osceola*; 193

White City, Florida, History of: Sandra Lewis; 48

White Flag; 218

Volume XXXIII

July 1954

Number 1

**The
FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

CONTENTS

The Governorship of Andrew Jackson

Herbert J. Doherty, Jr.

Three letters of Andrew Jackson

Plantation Economy in Leon County 1830-1840

Julia F. Hering

High School Essay Contest:

History of White City

Sandra Lewis

Regional and Local Historical Societies:

Historical Association of Southern Florida

Jacksonville Historical Society

St. Augustine Historical Society

Tallahassee Historical Society

The Florida Historical Society:

The Annual Meeting

Minutes

President's report

Treasurer's report

Resolutions

Membership

The Library - A Proposal

Contents of Vol. XXXII

SUBSCRIPTION FOUR DOLLARS

SINGLE COPIES ONE DOLLAR

(Copyright, 1954, by the Florida Historical Society. Reentered as second class matter November 21, 1947, at the post office at Tallahassee, Florida, under the Act of August 24, 1912.)

Office of publication, Tallahassee, Florida

Published quarterly by

THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Gainesville, Florida

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF ANDREW JACKSON

by HERBERT J. DOHERTY, JR.

It was a stifling hot day in July of 1821 but the inhabitants of Pensacola, Florida, and hundreds of recently arrived newcomers were all jammed into the town's central plaza. This was to be an important day in the lives of the people of Florida, for at ten o'clock in the morning the gaunt gray figure of Andrew Jackson would stalk from the governor's residence and cross the plaza to the government house where the ceremonies marking the transfer of the Floridas from Spain to the United States would be completed. As he sat in the governor's residence eating breakfast with his wife Rachel and the members of his staff, the old soldier may well have thought back to other days in Pensacola - for this was not the first time he had entered the ancient city. Twice in the previous seven years Jackson had led conquering armies into Spain's feeble North American outpost. Yet each of those earlier visits had been followed by the restoration of Spanish sovereignty, and this time Jackson was present for the purpose of terminating that sovereignty.

The first of those earlier visits had been provoked by the War of 1812 against Great Britain. Indian allies of the British posed a serious threat to the western frontier of the United States, and Florida served as a haven for marauding war parties and as a contact point between the Indians and British.

Note - Though his administration of Florida is but a minor episode of Andrew Jackson's life, it is an important one in *our* history. Six unpublished and unrecorded letters of his to Florida associates, relating largely to Florida affairs, which will be published here, have suggested this restudy of that subject, though it has been included to a more or less extent in the numerous biographies of Jackson.

Dr. Doherty, who has written much of Florida's territorial period, has gone to the original sources for this sketch. Three of the letters follow. The others will be included in an early issue of this *Quarterly* with an article by him on the Jacksonian faction in Florida, to members of which they were written. *Ed.*

Though not at war with the United States, Spain stood by with bland indifference while the British Navy and Indian agents openly made use of Florida as a base of operations. In the fall of 1814, Jackson led a force of three thousand men against British Marines at Pensacola, and on November 7 he drove them from the town and the Spanish bastion of Barrancas. Fearful that the fleeing Englishmen might be moving by sea toward Mobile or New Orleans, he then abandoned his Florida conquests and moved westward to prepare for the great battles at New Orleans in December and January. Thus ended the first visit.¹

The second visit occurred in the spring of 1818 when Jackson, a commanding general of the Southern Military Division, led an invasion of Florida which had been authorized by the War Department. The invasion had been agreed upon by the administration so that the commander in the field might not be hamstrung in fighting Indians who regularly took refuge across the border in Spanish territory. The only limitation upon Jackson was that he should not attack or molest any Spanish military post.² Jackson's personal feelings were that he should be allowed to put the entire peninsula under the stars and stripes, and he claimed that through Congressman John Rhea of Tennessee the administration gave approval to his plan. At any rate Jackson took St. Marks in April and Pensacola in May. He established Fort Gadsden on the Apalachicola river and ordered General Edmund P. Gaines to seize St. Augustine with the American troops which had been in possession of Amelia Island for many months. Though Secretary of War John C. Calhoun was able to countermand the latter order, Jackson was already in possession of West Florida. In Pensacola the general undertook to terminate Spanish rule by deposing

1. MS. "Journal of Governor R. K. Call," 81-84; Marquis James, *Andrew Jackson the Border Captain* (Indianapolis, 1933), 210-211.

2. John C. Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, December 26, 1817, in *State Papers*, 15 Congress, 2 Session, No. 14.

the officials, packing them off to Havana, and establishing a government of his own making. One of his officers, Colonel William King, was named governor and the revenue laws of the United States were proclaimed to be in effect.³

The diplomatic repercussions from Jackson's action included a temporary cessation of negotiations then in progress between the United States and Spain for the acquisition of the Floridas. The ensuing uproar persuaded the administration to recall Jackson and order the return of the provinces to Spain. Not, however, until February 8, 1819, was Pensacola restored to Spanish rule and Fort Gadsden and Amelia Island appear never to have been restored to Spanish control. Thus was Jackson's second visit terminated.⁴

The Cession

The treaty ceding Florida to the United States was signed only two weeks after the American evacuation of Pensacola, but it was not ratified by Spain for two years. Ultimately ratifications were exchanged and the treaty was proclaimed by President James Monroe on February 22, 1821. On March 3 Monroe was authorized by Congress to take possession of and provide for a government for the Floridas. He was directed to continue temporarily the existing form of government, except for laws concerning the revenue and the slave trade.⁵ It was not mere poetic justice that Monroe decided to entrust to Jackson the task of removing for the third time Spanish authority from the provinces. Under the economy moves of the Congress which reduced the size of the army, Jackson was to be relieved of his command and retired from the service on June 1, 1821.⁶ The Florida appointment would, in a measure,

3. *State Papers*, 15 Congress, 2 Session, Nos. 14, 100; also 16 Congress, 1 Session, No. 73.

4. David Yancey Thomas, *A History of Military Government in Newly Acquired Territory of the United States* (New York, 1904), 60, 63.

5. *Ibid.*, 65-66.

6. William A. Gordon, *A Compilation of Registers of the Army of the United States* (Washington, 1837), 204.

assuage any bitter feelings the old general might have and would get Monroe out of a ticklish spot.

On March 12, 1821, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, at the direction of the president, forwarded to Jackson his commissions as governor and as commissioner to receive the provinces and carry the treaty into execution. The commission as governor granted him most of the governmental functions. He was legislator, executive, and judge. Specifically, he was to exercise "all the powers and authorities heretofore exercised by the governor and captain general and intendant of Cuba, and by the governors of East and West Florida." He was, however, denied the power to grant land or levy taxes.⁷ The vague law passed by Congress for the extending of authority to the Floridas had made mention of the powers of the first American governor of Louisiana, and Adams instructed Jackson that his powers were "conformable to those which were entrusted to the Governor of Louisiana" on the first occupation.⁸ In that instance all important civil and military functions had been fused into the gubernatorial office.

Jackson accepted the appointments on condition that he might resign as soon as he had effected the transfer and erected the new government. On April 12, the general and his lady sailed from Nashville for Blakeley, Alabama, by way of New Orleans. They were then to proceed overland to Montpelier where Jackson was ordered to await the arrival of Colonel James Forbes who was bringing to Pensacola the transfer orders from the Captain General of Cuba.⁹ On the journey down the Mississippi, Jackson met Henry M. Brackenridge of Pennsylvania, a lawyer, scholar, and linguist also en route to

7. John Quincy Adams to Andrew Jackson, March 12, 1821, Jackson Papers, Library of Congress; see also Jackson's Commission as governor in *State Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 42.

8. John Quincy Adams to Andrew Jackson, March 12, 1821, Jackson Papers.

9. John C. Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, March 22, 1821, Jackson Papers.

Pensacola. This gentleman had previously dabbled in diplomacy and, though Adams considered him a "mere enthusiast," Monroe had been sufficiently impressed to promise him an appointment in Florida. Jackson, too, was impressed and invited the urbane scholar to join him in the formation of the government of the new territory. On their arrival in Montpelier, Jackson sent Brackenridge and James C. Bronaugh, his personal physician and confidante, to Governor Jose Callava of West Florida to announce his mission and act as his representatives.¹⁰

The transfer negotiations were delayed by many circumstances which arose, and Jackson did not get control of the province until about two months after his arrival in Alabama. The first major obstacle was the tardiness of Forbes in bringing the orders from Havana. His delay there was due to the refusal of the authorities to give up the archives relating to Florida. When he finally arrived, on June 9, Callava entered into negotiations for the transfer, but the negotiations gave rise to another delay. Callava insisted that cannon were not a part of the fortifications which were to be surrendered and insisted upon taking them with him. Secretary Adams had foreseen this eventuality, however, and had suggested to Jackson that he give Callava receipts for the cannon and let higher authority deal with the issue. This Jackson did, and got in return from the Spanish receipts for the transportation and provisions which the United States provided to them.¹¹

Ultimately, impatience overcame Jackson and he moved with his troops on June 15 to a place only fifteen miles from Pensacola. Callava, meanwhile, had allowed Bronaugh to take over the governor's residence for Jackson and on June 28

10. James Parton, *Life of Andrew Jackson* (New York, 1860), II, 615-616; Claude M. Newlin, "Henry M. Brackenridge," Dumas Malone, editor, *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1934), II, 543-544.

11. Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, July 30, 1821, Jackson Papers.

Rachel Jackson was sent on to the city to await the arrival of her husband.¹² Although there was a controversy between Jackson and Callava at this time over the question of who should call upon whom first, probably a stronger motive for his refusal to enter Pensacola was an order from the president not to introduce any troops into the city until after the Spanish should have been evacuated. Adams cautioned that the "utmost delicacy" should be observed to avoid any friction between Spaniards and Americans, and Jackson had vowed to return only at the head of his troops. After several more weeks of negotiation and delay the arrangements were completed for effecting the transfer, to be on the morning of July 17, 1821.¹³

While the negotiations for the transfer had been progressing and Jackson had been cooling his heels at Montpelier, President Monroe had been taking the first steps toward organizing the new territorial government. On May 22 he had sent to Jackson orders creating two territorial secretaryships, two United States judgeships, two district attorneyships, and the office of United States Marshal. He also divided Florida into three revenue districts with a customs collector for each one. The revenue districts were Pensacola, St. Marks, and St. Augustine. The secretaries, judges, and attorneys were for East and West Florida, to be located in Pensacola and St. Augustine. The marshal was to locate at either place, but he was to name a deputy for the other city.

Monroe also sent to Jackson a list of appointees for all the posts, none of who had been recommended by the latter. George Walton of Georgia was named Secretary of West Florida and W. G. D. Worthington of Maryland, of East Flor-

12. Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, July 29, 1821, in *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1; also Parton, *Andrew Jackson*, II, 600.

13. John Quincy Adams to Andrew Jackson, March 12, 1821, May 22, 1821, Jackson Papers.

ida. Eligius Fromentin of Louisiana was named United States Judge for West Florida and William P. DuVal of Kentucky, for East Florida. James G. Forbes of New York was named marshal.¹⁴ Jackson was infuriated and scrawled in a note to Bronaugh, "... not one of those I recommended is appointed." Aunt Rachel, as Mrs. Jackson was known to the staff and intimates, wrote, "There never was a man more disappointed than the General has been." His nephew and secretary, A. J. Donelson revealed: "One motive for accepting the governorship was the promotion and assistance of his friends."¹⁵

Jackson was particularly annoyed by the appointment of George Walton which he thought was done at the insistence of William H. Crawford of Georgia.¹⁶ He suspected Crawford of having led a move to censure him for his 1818 seizure of Spanish posts in Florida, and told Monroe that he could never admit a Crawford man to his confidence. Moreover, Jackson had recommended his former aide-de-camp Richard K. Call for the post. Monroe apologized but pointed out that Call had been retained in the army, and asserted, "Mr. Walton was strongly supported by the two Senators from Georgia . . . and Mr. Call was already provided for."¹⁷

The other appointees did not please the governor either and he complained that he was acquainted with but two of

-
14. *Ibid.* Other appointees were: Alexander Anderson (Tennessee), U. S. Attorney for West Florida; John C. Bird (Georgia), U. S. Attorney for East Florida; Mark Harden (North Carolina), Collector of Customs at St. Marks; John Rodman (New York), Collector of Customs at St. Augustine; R. S. Hackley (Virginia), Inspector of Revenue at St. Augustine; Alexander Scott (District of Columbia), Collector of Customs at Pensacola; William S. Smith (District of Columbia), Naval Officer at Pensacola; and Charles Jenkins (South Carolina), Inspector of Revenue at Pensacola.
 15. Andrew Jackson to James C. Bronaugh, June 9, 1821, in J. S. Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson* (Washington, 1928), III, 65; Rachel Jackson to [a brother], August 25, 1821, A. J. Donelson to ---, no date, both cited in "Journal of Governor R. K. Call."
 16. Andrew Jackson to John C. Calhoun, July 29, 1821, Jackson Papers.
 17. James Monroe to Andrew Jackson, May 23, 1821, in S. M. Hamilton, *The Writings of James Monroe* (New York, 1902), VI, 184-185.

them, DuVal and Fromentin. DuVal seemed to him to be of good character, "but of very moderate capacity as a lawyer." Very bad reports were circulated about Fromentin, and Jackson said that all who knew the man were astonished at his appointment. The old soldier spent several sentences chiding the president upon his poor appointees and informed him that none of them were on the scene to assist him. He promised, however, to organize the government with the aid of his "old and faithful companions."¹⁸

Having arranged the transfer ceremonies and exchanged letters with the president on his appointments, Jackson entered Pensacola at half past six in the morning of July 17. After breakfasting with Rachel and his staff, he prepared for the formal surrender by Callava at ten o'clock. At the appointed hour the new American governor and the other United States officers present advanced across the plaza between saluting ranks of Spanish and American troops to the Government House. There Jackson and Call, for the United States, and Callava and Jose Cruzat, for Spain, signed the transfer agreement.¹⁹ The party then passed again into the plaza where the Spanish colors were lowered and the stars and stripes hoisted, "with the tune of 'long may it wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.'"²⁰ Florida was at last legally United States territory and Jackson was its governor. The next day the Spanish garrison sailed away to Havana, except for thirty-six officers who were allowed to stay on condition that they leave within six months. Among them was Jose Callava who stayed on in his capacity as Spanish commissioner for the transfer.

18. Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, August 4, 1821, Jackson Papers.

19. Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, July 17, 1821, in *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

20. Andrew Jackson to W. G. D. Worthington, July 26, 1821, Jackson Papers.

The capital city which Jackson was taking over was not a very impressive place. Land speculators, swindlers, gamblers, and soldiers of fortune swarmed through the streets, which incessant rains and heavy traffic turned into quagmires. All the houses were in a state of dilapidation and looked "old as time" to Rachel Jackson. The new governor refused to occupy the Government House which he found propped up with unhewn timbers. It was in "a ruinous state . . . considered unsafe," he reported. He found the barracks uninhabitable and quartered the troops in blockhouses and the hospital, all of which were filthy but had been repaired. The habits of the inhabitants, both old and new, were disturbing to the Presbyterian morality of Aunt Rachel and her objections were reflected in the laws enacted by Jackson.²¹

After the transfer, Jackson issued proclamations organizing the city government of Pensacola and enacting certain ordinances into law. He found no Spanish city officers except an alcalde, but learning that a cabildo had once existed he used that as a precedent for creating a town council composed of a mayor and six aldermen. George Bowie was appointed mayor and the aldermen included William Barnett, Henry Michelet, John Innerarity, and John Brosnaham. Brackenridge was named alcalde, Bronaugh was named resident physician, John D. Voorhees became health officer, James C. Craig was appointed constable, and Oliver Clark was made harbor master.²²

The mayor and aldermen were empowered to impose fines and forfeitures and to exercise any powers "necessary to the good Government of the said Town." This specifically included the power to make any regulations concerning Sabbath observance. The ordinance prohibited public gaming houses and

21. Rachel Jackson to Eliza Kingsley, July 23, 1821, in Parton, *Andrew Jackson*, II, 606; Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, July 30, 1821, Jackson Papers; J. C. Bronaugh and H. M. Brackenridge to Andrew Jackson, May 7, 1821, in *Senate Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1.

22. Commissions issued July 19, 1821, Jackson Papers.

gaming, except for billiards. Violation was punishable by a \$200 fine and the posting of a \$500 good behavior bond. Liquor dealers were forbidden to sell intoxicating beverages to soldiers of the United States Army.²³ These laws undoubtedly reflected the influence of Aunt Rachel who looked upon them with approval, observing, "really a change was necessary."²⁴ Though the broad powers conferred upon the city council appear not to have been abused, these restrictions were seized upon by many of Jackson's enemies, who saw in them a tendency on the part of the governor to curb constitutional liberties.

In the days which followed, Jackson made other regulations, some of which reformed the chaotic Spanish system which he was to continue. He made ordinances for the preservation of health, for the establishment of rates of pilotage, for the registration of old inhabitants who wish to be American citizens; and for the creation of a territorial judiciary. Two counties were created, St. Johns east of the Suwannee river, and Escambia west of that stream. A county court was ordained for each, consisting of five justices of the peace having jurisdiction in all criminal cases and in civil cases over twenty dollars. The governor served as court of highest appeal and in no case was any capital punishment to be inflicted without the approval of the governor. Civil proceedings were to follow the Spanish law but criminal proceedings were to be conducted in accordance with common law. This guaranteed indictment and trial by jury in all criminal cases.²⁵

The county courts were also to be the county governments. This was not an unusual procedure in frontier areas particularly in the South. A clerk, sheriff, and prosecuting attorney were to be appointed by the governor for each court. The

23. Proclamation of July 17, 1821, Jackson Papers.

24. Rachel Jackson to Eliza Kingsley, July 23, 1821, *loc. cit.*

25. Ordinances of July 17, 20, 21, 1821, Jackson Papers.

county courts were empowered to impose those taxes needed to defray their expenses, a provision which was attacked by political enemies because Jackson himself had been denied the taxing power. David Shannon was named presiding judge of the Escambia court and John Miller, clerk. Jackson sent Secretary Worthington blank commissions for organizing the St. Johns county court, but notified him that he had already promised the posts of sheriff, prosecuting attorney, and clerk. He declared that his desire had been to give preference to old inhabitants in making appointments, but that he had found few of them willing to accept or remain in office.²⁶ As a result, most of the offices went to his old cronies or their friends. One of the great burdens of Jackson's tenure of office was disposal of the patronage. The Jackson papers in the Library of Congress abound with letters from his old comrades, or friends of old comrades, asking appointments for themselves or their relatives.

In St. Augustine the transfer of authority had come one week earlier than in Pensacola. Just as in the latter place, however, Monroe's civil appointees had not arrived at the time of the change of flags and provisional powers were exercised by military officers. Jackson's order clothing Worthington with all the powers of the Spanish governor of East Florida was transmitted by Colonel Robert Butler, the receiving officer, to Captain John R. Bell to exercise until Worthington should arrive.²⁷ Although Jackson extended the county court system to the old East Florida province, he told Worthington to continue the Spanish form of city government in St. Augustine. That government had been better organized than the one in Pensacola, having an *alcalde*, *cabildo*, and judge. Jackson instructed Worth-

26. Commissions of July 19, 1821, Andrew Jackson to W. G. D. Worthington, July 26, 1821, Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, July 30, 1821, all in Jackson Papers.

27. Robert Butler to John R. Bell, July 11, 1821, Jackson Papers.

ington to continue native incumbents in office if they were of good character and would take the oath of allegiance. Only one of the old officers was willing to comply with this requirement.²⁸

During Jackson's governorship, his chief headaches in East Florida arose from the differences between the civil authority, under Worthington, and the military, under Bell. A major point at issue was the use of public buildings. The civil authorities insisted upon the use of several buildings in which Bell wished to quarter his troops, who he claimed were suffering from their residence in cold, dank Castillo de San Marcos. Jackson sympathized with Bell and the situation of the troops, but sided with the civil authorities. He expressed his regret to Bell that any difference had arisen, but declared that he must honor all requests made by Worthington for the purpose of enforcing the laws and administering the government.²⁹ This was not now General Jackson speaking, but civilian Governor Jackson upholding the power of civilian Secretary Worthington. (See Appendix I.)

Arrest of Former Governor Callava

In West Florida the problems which beset the new governor were of more spectacular character. During the month of August an important controversy arose which may be partially blamed on the chaotic state of government in the last years of Spanish rule and the confused condition of the archives. The natural heirs of Don Nicholas Maria Vidal - motivated by the chief claimant Mercedes Vidal, a woman of mixed blood - instituted proceedings to recover certain documents relating to the administration of his estate. Vidal had died in 1806 and since that time no action had been successfully sustained to force the firm of Forbes and Company, admin-

28. Andrew Jackson to W. G. D. Worthington, August 13, 1821, Jackson Papers.

29. Andrew Jackson to John R. Bell, December 19, 1821, Jackson Papers.

istrators of the estate, to pay the claimants their inheritance. John Innerarity, the resident manager of the firm in Pensacola, was a long-time friend of former Governor Callava and it was suspected that his influence had delayed the execution of the Vidal will.

With the coming of American rule, the Vidal heirs retained Henry M. Brackenridge and Richard K. Call as their attorneys. With such influential counsel, immediate results were to be expected. Brackenridge examined papers held by Domingo Sousa, a clerk to Callava, in which the heirs charged their vital documents were located. His examination determined that the Vidal papers were in Sousa's possession, and furthermore that all the papers held by Sousa were of such importance that they should be surrendered to the new regime. Jackson promptly issued an order for acquisition of the papers, but Sousa meanwhile took the collection to Callava. Jackson became convinced that Callava was in a conspiracy with Forbes and Company to defraud the Vidal heirs, and demanded of Callava immediate possession of the papers.³⁰

A delegation of officials called upon Callava to request the papers, which he refused to hand over. He defied threats of seizure, saying that as commissioner of Spain for the transfer he was entitled to diplomatic immunity. Later the same day, Jackson requisitioned a detachment of troops from the military commandant and appointed a committee consisting of Shannon, Brackenridge, Bronaugh, Walton, and Thomas Brownjohn to wait upon Callava and seize the papers if necessary. Callava proved to be adamant in his refusal; consequently he was arrested and the papers taken. The Spaniard protested that he would not be taken from his home alive but spectators observed, he seemed to act without much difficulty when the

30. Robert Butler and J. C. Bronaugh to Andrew Jackson, August 22, 1821, in *State Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 42; Thomas, *History of Military Government*, 81-82.

guard was ordered to prime and load." ³¹ After a stormy interview with Jackson, Callava was committed to jail overnight and the papers were removed from his residence.

Despite the fact that two courts were in operation in Pensacola, the county court and the federal court presided over by Fromentin, it is interesting to note that the Vidal counsel made no move to secure the controversial papers through action by these lower courts. Instead they resorted to a direct appeal to the executive, who believed that he held the supreme judicial power by virtue of the ill-defined grant of powers to him. It is also interesting to note that Shannon, the presiding judge of the county court, was among the persons sent to demand the documents of Callava. ³²

During the transfer period and thereafter, the former Spanish governor had become friendly with many of the new officers, including Judge Fromentin and Colonel George M. Brooke who commanded the army detachment in Pensacola. Indeed, the Spaniard was an attractive, gracious, and impressive gentleman, tall, blonde, about forty years of age and marked by nobility of bearing and manner. It is not surprising that in the crude little town many a gentleman was attracted to his company. After Callava's incarceration, several of his friends made an oral application to Fromentin for a writ of *habeas corpus*, which he granted. The writ was served on the officer of the day by Dr. John Brosnaham, a city alderman, but the officer refused to comply with it and passed it on to the governor. Jackson summarily rejected the writ and ordered Fromentin to appear before him to show cause for his attempted interference with Jackson's authority as supreme judge and chancellor. When Fromentin appeared Jackson sternly pointed out to him that he had issued the writ without an affidavit and without possessing such authority in the first place. To Secretary Adams, Jackson pointed

31. *Ibid.*

32. *State Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 42.

out that it was well understood that by act of Congress Fromentin's jurisdiction extended only to revenue laws and acts preventing the import of slaves. Fromentin admitted to Jackson that the writ had been ill advised, and he had earlier complained of the vague definition of his jurisdiction. The governor insisted that the judge's action had been "unaccountable, indecorous, and unjustifiable," and was indicative of his complete lack of legal knowledge.³³ Jackson later heard the case himself and ruled in favor of the Vidal heirs.

Jackson's action in setting aside the writ, reprimanding a federal judge, and hearing the Vidal case himself, brought severe criticism from his political enemies and those who have not understood the confusions and contradictions of the web of Spanish and United States law on which the provisional government was based. Fromentin pointed up the confusion of powers when he wrote to Adams, "I should not be surprised if, to all the pompous titles by him enumerated . . . he should superadd that of grand inquisitor, and if, finding in my library many books formerly prohibited in Spain, . . . he should send me to the stake."³⁴ Jackson, himself, asserted that through the whole Vidal affair he had been motivated primarily by concern for "the imperious rules of justice, to save the unprotected orphan from being ruined by the most cruel oppression." He regretted the necessity for the use of his judicial powers but insisted that all his actions had been regular and necessary. There was no course, he said, but to view Callava as a private individual "setting my authority at defiance" with the encouragement of American citizens and the executors of the Vidal estate. The wealth and influence of the executors should not entitle them to any preference before the law: "In general the

33. MS. Diary of R. K. Call, Call Papers, University of North Carolina Library; *State Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 1; John Spencer Bassett, *The Life of Andrew Jackson* (New York, 1916), I, 301.

34. Eligius Fromentin to John Quincy Adams, August 26, 1821, in *State Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 42.

great can protect themselves, but the poor and humble require the arm and shield of the law.“³⁵

By normal standards Jackson's procedure would have been deemed irregular, but this was not a normal situation, and in the circumstances his actions were by no means as irregular as those of Fromentin and Callava. Callava had documents to which Jackson was entitled, and would not deliver them up. Fromentin had jurisdiction only in cases involving federal law, and no laws of the United States had been extended to Florida except those pertaining to revenue and regulation of the slave trade. Secretary Adams defended Jackson ably and agreed with the interpretation of the limitations on Fromentin's power. He was, however, sympathetic to Callava's complaints of personal indignities and admonished Jackson gently that the Spaniard had been entitled to all the immunities necessary for the execution of his trust as commissioner of the King of Spain.³⁶

Many who have been critical of the assumption of judicial powers by Jackson have dwelt on the fact that the Spanish constitution of 1820 had stripped executive officers of judicial power. In Florida, however, no judge had been appointed and Callava found it expedient to insist that at the time of transfer there had been no Spanish official capable of exercising judicial functions. Jackson, however, did not believe that the 1820 constitution had ever been legally promulgated in Florida and assumed that the old laws should still be in effect. Moreover, he believed that the intent of the Congress had been that he should exercise the same broad executive and judicial powers which the first American governor of Louisiana had possessed. The wording of the law, and his instructions, bear out that assumption. Ultimately, both Adams and Monroe supported Jackson, and in thanking Monroe for his endorsement Jackson wrote, "I had

35. Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, August 26, 1821, *ibid.*

36. John Quincy Adams to Andrew Jackson, October 26, 1821, *ibid.*

an eye to justice to all, and protection of the humble from the Tyranny and oppression of the powerful and great."³⁷

After his release, Callava had proceeded to Washington to lay his complaints before the Spanish minister. His officers remaining in Pensacola published a joint protest against the treatment which had been accorded him, and Jackson retaliated with a proclamation ordering them out of the country within four days. He accused them of stirring up disaffection and sowing discontent and charged that they had committed "a violation of that decency and respect which is due me."³⁸ After their departure he ordered Walton, "should any of them attempt to return, have them forthwith imprisoned, and retained there untill further notice." From Pensacola, the expelled officers went to New Orleans where they met with a cool reception. (See Appendix II and III.)

Despite his preoccupation with the Vidal case and with erecting city, county, and territorial governments, Jackson concerned himself with the problem of the Florida Indians. Even before occupying Pensacola he had made recommendations to Secretary of War Calhoun in respect to Indian policy. The substance of his recommendation, which was often repeated, was that the Indians should be evacuated from the territory. The "Florida Indians" in 1821 were a hybrid people made up of the aborigines who survived the campaigns of Governor Moore of South Carolina in the early 1700's, Creeks who migrated into Spanish Florida during the mid 1700's and became known as Seminoles, and Negro slaves. Jackson asserted that the greater part of the Indians were run-away Creeks and should be removed to the Creek nation. He believed that unless they were removed at the beginning disagreeable consequences

37. Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, November 12, 1821, Jackson Papers.

38. Proclamation of September 29, 1821 by Jackson, Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, September 30, 1821, both in *State Papers*, 17 Congress, 1 Session, No. 42.

would result from their remaining and the government would find them difficult to control.³⁹

Calhoun approved of Indian removal in principal, but informed Jackson that Georgia objected to their being sent to the Creek nation (which was in the bounds of Georgia) because that would prolong the time of the extinguishment of the Indian title to lands in Georgia.⁴⁰ Even in Florida the question of the title of Indians to land was raised during Jackson's administration. Spanish policy toward Indian lands had been contradictory and some Indian lands were said to have been granted away by the Crown. Some argued that the cession had abrogated all titles, while others argued that there never had been any Indian title to lands. The latter argument was patently false, however, for Spain had made a treaty in 1784 with the Indians in which they had been confirmed in the lands which they actually held within Spanish territory.⁴¹ In his suggestions for removal, Jackson did not treat of the legal aspects of extinguishing Indian claims in Florida.

In East Florida a breath of fresh air was breathed into the Indian controversy by an old inhabitant, George J. F. Clarke, whose remarks to Captain Bell in St. Augustine bear the imprint of an optimistic, almost Jeffersonian, rationalism. Clarke defined the property rights which the Indians had possessed under the old regime and went on to express the hope that the Indian could be civilized. Those who were cynical of that goal he called limited in conception and illiberal of mind. "Are we not all the children of habit," he wrote, "the mere reflection of education and manners? . . . It is evident that the only difference in man, laying aside his color, is the difference in opinion; and that difference of opinion arises from the difference of education." Country and color, he suggested, do not set limits to man's

39. Andrew Jackson to John C. Calhoun, September 2, 17, 1821, in *American State Papers: Indian Affairs*, II, 414.

40. John C. Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, May 14, 1821, Jackson Papers.

41. *American State Papers: Indian Affairs*, II, 412, 416.

capabilities.⁴² Andrew Jackson, the Indian fighter, the frontiersman, the slaveholder, the patriarch, was not possessed of such philosophic convictions.

Jackson's attitude toward the Indian was not as savage as sometimes painted, however. It was paternal. The Indians should be put under the protection of the Great White Father in Washington and deposited in some out of the way place where they would neither menace whites nor impede their expansion. In developing this paternalistic line of thought he anticipated the policy which was adopted by the government in 1871 - the policy of dealing with the tribes as subjects governed by laws of Congress, and not as nations with whom treaties are made. He told Calhoun, "the arm of government is sufficient to protect them, and to carry into execution any measures called for by justice to them. . . . Hence the absurdity of holding treaties with Indian tribes within our territorial limits, subject to our sovereignty."⁴³

Two months after the transfer Jackson was visited by three Indian chiefs, Neamathla, Mulatto King, and John Blount, who were concerned with what was to be done to their people by the new government. Jackson talked to them somewhat as to children and assured them that a country would be given to them somewhere by the president. In his report of the interview the governor asserted that they acknowledged the justice of forcing the Creeks to return to their own nation. They left, he said, pleased and happy. After this interview, Jackson suggested to Calhoun that the Indians should be concentrated in the upper Apalachicola river valley, but again he warned that *best* policy would be to remove them all to Creek country.⁴⁴

Less than a month after his assumption of the governorship Jackson began to complain of the burden upon his health of

42. George J. F. Clarke to John R. Bell, August 15, 1821, *ibid.*, 415-416.

43. Andrew Jackson to John C. Calhoun, September 17, 1821, Jackson Papers.

44. Andrew Jackson to John C. Calhoun, September 20, 1821, Jackson Papers.

the arduous duties of his office. The paper work tired him and the disputes with Spanish officialdom tried his patience. The heat and long wait in camp while the transfer negotiations had progressed had sapped his strength and he looked longingly to the day when he might have "a little leisure."⁴⁵ His former aide, Captain Call, observed that the administration of the provisional government had taken as much out of Jackson as had the earlier campaigns against the Indians. In addition, the annoyance of not having control of the major appointive offices increased his dissatisfaction. This was played upon by his wife and his intimates, who thought that he should have possessed the power. Though Rachel Jackson had found some diversion in the attention which she received as first lady, she had many misgivings about her residence in this "heathen land" and her dissatisfaction and ill health undoubtedly added to the problems burdening the governor's mind.

Beyond his personal fatigue and irritation may also have lain the lure of the presidency. In August, one of Jackson's Tennessee friends, Samuel Overton, had informed him that "the dominant party in Pennsylvania are determined to run you as a candidate for the next Presidency." Overton urged him to give serious consideration to the matter and added, "If the people believe that you can render them important services . . . they ought to be gratified."⁴⁶ Though Jackson is known to have favored Calhoun for the presidency at this time, the possibility that his arch enemy Crawford would be a strong contender for the office must have worked to prevent Jackson's completely excluding himself from the picture. His Florida experiences were being turned to unfavorable ends by his enemies, and the frontier territory was a long way from the main national political scene. Hence, presidential politics may have been another underlying factor in his decision to leave.

45. Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, August 4, 1821, Jackson Papers.

46. Samuel Overton to Andrew Jackson, August 1, 1821, Jackson Papers.

Jackson's acceptance of the governorship had been given on condition that he might resign as soon as the government had been securely organized. By September he decided that this condition had been fulfilled and began to make plans to return to Tennessee. On the second of that month he informed Calhoun that the state of Mrs. Jackson's health compelled him to return her to Tennessee as soon as possible. By the first week in October all preparations were complete and after a farewell dinner at Austin's Tavern on the night of the fourth the governor and his lady took their leave of Florida.⁴⁷

Upon his arrival in Nashville, Jackson forwarded his resignation to the president, to take effect at the meeting of Congress in December. He expressed his willingness to return to Florida "if necessary to the public service."⁴⁸ (See Appendix II.) During his absence the direction of the government in Florida fell into the hands of the two secretaries. In Pensacola, George Walton whom Jackson had suspiciously viewed as a Crawford man thus became acting governor. Association with Walton, however, had altered the governor's opinion and he told President Monroe, "I must say that I have found him a pleasant gentlemanly man, and with application will become a useful officer."⁴⁹ Nonetheless, Walton was not viewed as a possible successor to the governorship of the whole territory, for Jackson hoped to have Colonel William King succeed him, and some of his followers in Florida got up a petition to that effect.⁵⁰ Monroe, however, had other plans.

From his Tennessee home, Jackson directed his final suggestions to the administration concerning the government of Florida. Because of the mixed population and frontier character of the area, he believed that its government ought to be "simple and

47. Pensacola *Floridian*, October 8, 1821.

48. Andrew Jackson to John C. Calhoun, September 2, 1821, Jackson Papers.

49. Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, November 12, 1821, Jackson Papers.

50. R. K. Call to Andrew Jackson, October 30, 1821, Jackson Papers.

energetic." Preservation of Spanish institutions was not necessary nor important because the number of Spanish inhabitants was so insignificant. The proper goal of the federal government, Jackson affirmed, should be to unify East and West Florida and admit them to the union as one state as speedily as possible. It was his opinion that only that course would serve the best interests of Florida.⁵¹

Appraisal of Jackson's Governorship

Historians and biographers have treated Andrew Jackson's governorship of Florida with varying degrees of hostility and sympathy, varying generally with their overall sympathy for or hostility towards the man. All agree that he was governor in a trying period, and that his powers and duties were ill-defined. At one extreme, David Yancey Thomas has called Jackson's alterations of the existing government "high crimes and misdemeanors" for which there was "no legal excuse."⁵² At the other extreme, John Spencer Bassett described those changes as "wisely planned" and asserted that Jackson was "practical and bold and did not hesitate to override the letter in order to enforce the spirit of a law."⁵³ Somewhat less hostile than Thomas were James Parton and William G. Sumner, who both conceded that Jackson was well intentioned. Parton suggested that Jackson's governorship "was only saved from being atrocious by being ridiculous."⁵⁴ Sumner believed that Jackson made an "arrogant fool" of himself.⁵⁵ James Schouler was of the opinion that the governor was an "indiscreet soldier" and that his whole mission "had been one of ill humor."⁵⁶ A recent biographer,

51. Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, October 6, 1821, Jackson Papers.

52. Thomas, *History of Military Government*, 75-76.

53. Bassett, *Life of Andrew Jackson*, I, 315-317.

54. Parton, *Andrew Jackson*, II, 641-642.

55. William Graham Sumner, *Andrew Jackson* (Boston, 1899), 89.

56. James Schouler, *History of the United States of America under the Constitution* (New York, 1913), III, 244.

Marquis James, leans to the Bassett interpretation and concedes that Jackson took some "short cuts to justice" but he insists that his actions were more regular than those of Callava or Fromentin.⁵⁷

The writers who are sharply critical of Jackson emphasize his lack of tact, his impatience with involved procedure, his vanity, his crudity, his discourtesy toward Spanish officials, and such personal shortcomings. They are the writers who as they have read the historical sources have been shocked by Jackson's roughness and lack of polish and, perhaps unconsciously, have allied themselves with the political opponents of Jackson and the democratic movement with which he was later associated. Like those contemporary political opponents, they too have picked out the elements which are most open to criticism. By the same token, we might charge the defenders of Jackson with being men who have fallen under the spell of the "Old Hero" and his later political associates, and who love him for his virtues in spite of his faults.

Yet looking at Jackson's administration in Florida - which lasted only slightly more than eleven weeks - we may ask what he did that may be classed as a gross error? He reformed the existing government, much to its betterment. He did not exploit his office for any personal gain. Though he placed his own construction upon them, he did not violate the laws of the United States or the instructions given to him. Though he took lightly the obligations of international law, he was ably defended by the crusty old Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, who could usually balance off his dubious actions with irregularities on the part of Spanish officials.

In charging Jackson with high crimes and misdemeanors, D. Y. Thomas makes much of the fact that Jackson ignored the Spanish constitution of 1820 which stripped executive officers of legislative and judicial powers. Had Jackson observed this

57. James, *Andrew Jackson Border Captain*, 354, 356.

law his hands would have been tied to take any action in Florida. This argument also ignores the fact that Jackson was instructed to generally pattern his regime after that of the original territorial government of Louisiana, in which the governor was vested with legislative and judicial powers. It also ignores the fact that the Spanish constitution of 1820 had not even been enforced in Florida by the preceding Spanish regime. Under all the circumstances it does not seem even remotely possible that anyone could have found Jackson guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors. Even the most critical historians (albeit with an air of revulsion) admit that the people in general favored Jackson's conduct of affairs in Florida.

The governorship of Florida was only a brief moment in Jackson's life. It was a moment important in Florida, however, because of the formative period in which it took place. The men who came with Jackson did not leave Florida, but remained to become the new leaders of a new territory. On the scene first, they became the established, influential political leaders and their ties with the popular hero were exploited to the fullest. It is interesting to note that this Jacksonian faction two decades later, however, was the nucleus of Florida's Whig party, the mortal foes of Jackson's Democracy.

APPENDIX I

*(Andrew Jackson to Captain John Bell)**

Pensacola, 1st October, 1821

The Commanding Officer
of the U. States Troops at

St. Augustine

Sir,

You will comply with the requisitions made upon you by Mr.

* The originals of this and the letters of Jackson's which follow are in the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida. They are not included in Bassett: *Correspondence of Andrew Johnson*, 6 vols. The Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1926.

G. D. Worthington Esq. Secretary for East Florida for the purpose of enforcing the laws and enabling him to administer the government agreeably to his instructions. I confidently trust that the utmost harmony will exist between the military and civil departments of the Government.

I am sir
with gr. respect
yr. mo. obt. Sevt.
Andrew Jackson
Gov of the Floridas

[Endorsed on the back in a different hand, as follows:]

This order of Genl Jacksons grew out of a difference between myself & the Military, at St. Augustine, which we referred to Genl Jackson, who decided it entirely in my favor. My letter to him was a bold & manly claim of the Civil above the Military authority. I lost his reply to me. It did him much credit. When he was last in the Senate US, I wrote him for a copy of it. He promised it but said his papers were all left by him at the Hermitage. I never renewed the request, as I always opposed his election to the Presidency.

W.G.D. Worthington

To Dr. Cohen

Septr 13th 1845

[Following also on the back of the Jackson letter of October 1, 1821]

Balte Septr 13 1845

To Dr. Cohen-Balte,

Dear Sir-

I was appointed by Mr. Monroe President US as Secretary for East Florida. Col Walton under Genl Jackson as Secretary for West Florida. While Genl. Jackson remained at Pensacola he had the powers of the Captain Genl. of the Island of Cuba - His health forcing him to quit Florida in the Fall of 1821 - I was formally commissioned by him as Governor of East Florida of

which I had been in fact the Governor all along & so instructed by the President in our last interview before I left Washington for St. Augustine. You have on this paper the late General Jackson's autograph.

Yours sincerely
W.G.D. Worthington

APPENDIX II

(Andrew Jackson to George Walton)

Huntsville Octbr. 29th 1821

Dr. Colo.

I reached this place on the evening of the 26th Instant all in good health and the ladies in good spirits - a few little accidents such as the breaking harnesses which with the aid of blacksmith shops where the[y] could be had, and when not to be had, the aid of good ropes we got on very well. One of my carriage horses proving restive, and failing to draw, and my old trusty carriage horse being much fatigued, made it necessary at Tuskalooza, to exchange my restive horse which I accomplished, giving fifty dollars to boot. This horse proved faithful for a few days, when it appeared he had the glanders. I have left him calmly to die, with my blessings on the honest man, who let me have him - and my prayers that he may derive much benefit from the fifty dollars I gave him.

Being informed that the Southern mail would arrive here on this day, I awaited its arrival, in hopes to hear from you, but no southern mail came in, & the Floridian of the 8th has not reached here except by us. I proceed on to Nashville tomorrow, where I hope to hear from you. The road we travelled was out of the way of news, I see from the Eastern papers, that Callava had reached the city, ¹ where he met with a cool reception and

1. In this era Washington, D. C., was widely known as Washington City. Since Callava went to Washington from Pensacola, it is obvious that "city" here refers to the national capital.

proceeded on to New-York to overtake Genl Vives ² who has left the city for Madrid. I have seen the farewell adress of the Spanish officers, should any of them attempt to return, have them forthwith imprisoned, and retained there untill further advised. ³

I see it is announced in the Federal Republican, that Fromentine ⁴ was the only Individual at Pensacola who disapproved of the imprisonment of Callava - on which there is a very pertinent remark in the National Intelligencer - from which I presume the Executive disapproves his conduct in that case. Should it be necessary that I should return, disagreeable as it may be to me, I will unite with you in twelve days from the receipt of your advice. I therefore trust you will keep me advised by every mail. As soon as I reach Nashville I shall again adress you. Present me respectfully to all my friends and accept assurance of my sincere regard.

ANDREW JACKSON

COLO. G. WALTON

APPENDIX III

(*Andrew Jackson to George Walton*)

Hermitage near Nashville

Novbr. 13th 1821 - 10 oclock P.M.

Dr. Colo.

This moment the anxiously waited for communication reached

-
2. General Francisco Dionisio Vives was Spanish minister to the United States who replaced Luis de Onis while negotiations about ratification of the Florida treaty were going on.
 3. After the departure of Callava his officers protested the treatment accorded him by Jackson. As a result, Jackson ordered them to leave Florida within four days.
 4. Judge Eligius Fromentin was a native of France and had been educated in a Jesuit college, after which he became a priest. He took refuge from the French Revolution in Louisiana, where he studied law and entered politics. He temporarily returned to France after the restoration of the Bourbons, but finding no opportunity there for the exercise of his talents he returned to Louisiana. The influence of his wife's family got him the appointment to the West Florida judgeship. He was incompetent and was replaced in 1823 with Henry M. Brackenridge.

me, and as the mail leaves Nashville tomorrow early I have but a moment to reply. I am happy to find that peace order & tranquility reigns in Pensacola and Florida. I knew so soon as the Spanish officers were taught to know that respect due to the American Govt, peace and tranquility would prevail; as it now does. I am just advised that Callava meeting with a very cool climate to the Eastward, has returned to Charleston South Carolina. This being not warm enough for his *ill health* he has sailed for Cuba. Should he visit Pensacola I trust whilst he stays (should he stay beyond your notice to depart, D) that you will have him for his contemptuous conduct safely kept in the calabos. I am gratified to find from the letter of Mr. Monroe that my conduct as far as considered is approved. This letter altho official is of a nature not to be copied in your official record, altho you were right to preserve a copy least the original on its passage might have been lost. The whole package came to me wet, and much abused, but all legible; it is what I expected to hear, that those Spanish officers would not be received in Orleans with much approbation - particularly as Gellmar⁵ one of them piloted the British army when they invaded the country and made the advance on New Orleans, and I suppose from that time to the present he has not visited New Orleans. I do suppose Judge Fromentine with all his Jesuistical cunning begins to think that it would have been better for him to have aided me in the administration of the government agreeable to his instructions, than acting the fool for Spanish perfidy, and then, stating a wicked and willful falsehood, to relieve him from his humbled situation that his rashness, ignorance & folly had placed him, however when those things are published to the world he will find that his secretly circulating mutilated statement of the facts will be unfolded to the world and his baseness in this exposed. Please present me to my friend Capt Call. Say to him I have recd his letters and will answer them as early as possible.

5. Arnoldo Guillemard, one of the Spanish officers.

I wrote him from Judge Overton's on the 5th Instant which I hope will reach him by due course of mail.

I have only time to add, that we arrived home on the evening of the 5th the ladies in good health, and all the Gentlemen and servants except Mrs. J. maid taken on the journey & who is still ill. The Ladies & Gentlemen join me in a tender of our respects and regard to you, with a request that we be presented by you respectfully to all our friends in Pensacola, in due time you shall hear from me again, in the mean time accept the assurance of my esteem & regard & beleive me to be yr mo obt servt

ANDREW JACKSON

P S. I have the pleasure to say to you our friend Capt Easter ⁶ is now with me and requests to be affectionately presented to you. He has perfectly recovered his health. Colo. Butler ⁷ is with me, desires to be remember to you kindly (and thanks you for not presenting to him your respects in your letter) the latter part of his complement he means in jest. A.J.

[What follows is in a different hand.]

The Gnl having retired to bed and left me his letter to copy I slip in a how-d'y-do my old friends. I would be happy to hear from you. Glad to find you identifiyed with our old chief. I shall see you early in Feby and hope ere then Mrs. Walton will have joined you. My love to Call & Dinkins ⁸ and for myself a long life and merry one. Farewell.

EASTER

COLONEL WALTON

-
6. Captain Richard J. Easter, army officer, aide to Jackson, and later a law partner of Richard K. Call in Pensacola.
 7. Colonel Robert Butler, who served as Jackson's adjutant general in the New Orleans campaign. He was the agent to receive East Florida from the Spanish and was later a resident of Florida.
 8. Major James E. Dinkins, one of Jackson's officers since the battle at New Orleans. One of the many comrades of Jackson who went to Florida.

PLANTATION ECONOMY IN LEON COUNTY, 1830-1840

by JULIA HERING

The area of cotton culture in Florida during the ante-bellum period was located mainly between the Apalachicola and Suwannee rivers, and in 1840 comprised the counties of Leon, Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton and Gadsden. It is significant that this area constituted then more or less an island in northern Florida whose economy, social structure, and soil type differed from that in the remainder of the state. In this comparatively small and isolated region there came into being, between 1830 and 1840, a cotton economy which compared favorably with that of the Georgia Piedmont or the Black Belt of Alabama. The emphasis in this paper will be upon only one county in this island of cotton culture - Leon.

Leon County had gained a significant importance prior to the decade 1830-1840 when it began to receive its first influx of planters from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. As in other parts of the lower South, this was a period of land speculation, and by 1839 there were, in the area of present Leon County, at least thirty plantations well enough established to use thirty to forty-five slaves. Most of these were located north and east of Tallahassee.

Even as early as 1773, William Bartram while traveling through the area, wrote and described the region as being exceptionally fertile for the growing of cotton, rice, corn, and other agricultural products.¹ In 1835, Farquhar Macrae wrote about Leon County from his Wacissa plantation in Jefferson County, that "good lands are mostly all entered; the large tracts are still held by individuals in the market, at rates cheaper than any other

This paper was read at the Annual Meeting of The Florida Historical Society, 1954.

1. *The Travels of William Bartram*, edited by Mark Van Doren, Dover Publishing Co., 1928.

Slavery was a foundation-stone on which the economy of the plantation system was built; and this illustration and those which follow indicate certain contrasting aspects of what was called the "peculiar institution of the South".

TEN DOLLARS REWARD.



RAN AWAY from the subscriber, a *Negro man* named *Charles*, and a *Negro woman* named *Dorcas*. The man is about forty years old, and the woman thirty-eight. The man is very black—about five feet nine inches in height,—with the African marks on his face of his native country. The woman is about five feet nine inches, and rather thick set. Any person returning them shall receive the above reward.

HENRY W. MAXEY.

Cedar Point, March 4.

1w10

From the JACKSONVILLE COURIER, April 16, 1835

Francis de Castelnau, a keen observer, in his description of slavery in the Tallahassee area, wrote in 1837 (FLA. HIST. QUARTERLY XXVI, 240):

"A whip is the only language used with them. . . . In the midst of this terrible misery the black people prosper and seem even to be happy. . . . They are proud of their state of slavery and cannot speak of free negroes without pitying them. 'Poor fellow' they say 'he has no master'. . . . The children of the black race have seemed to me to be about equal to the white children until they reach the age of ten or twelve, but then their intelligence seems to stand still.

"Nothing proves better the moral degradation of the negro than the joy and content he shows in the state of slavery. Draw near a plantation and the noisy outbursts of laughter that you hear there will make you forget the overseer who goes about with his huge whip. Then come the rest days and all the miseries of the week are forgotten in the wildest dances and the most ridiculous capers."

land of similar quality in the southern country". Macrae further stated that the land was in no way inferior to the acreage that was selling in Alabama for twenty-five dollars an acre and could be bought in Florida for about ten dollars an acre, and the planters, "whether desirous of cultivating cotton, rice, tobacco, or grain, or breeding cattle, at once found before him, land . . . alluring in verdant pasturage, fertile forests and well furnished springs."²

Of the well-established plantations in Leon County by 1839, the average size appears to have been 1500 to 2500 acres, employing thirty to forty-five slaves.³ Samuel Parkhill and Benjamin Chaires were among the larger landholders, and appear to have been typical planters; for these reasons they have been selected for further mention.

Samuel Parkhill started buying land in Leon County in 1828 and by 1839 owned 4,400 acres and eighty slaves, which apparently comprised two separate plantations since about 3,400 acres were located northwest of Tallahassee touching Lake Jackson and the remaining 1,000 acres were northeast of the city.⁴ Parkhill died in 1841 leaving his estate heavily mortgaged and without having made a will. His widow, Martha Ann, petitioned the Superior Court of Leon County for one-third of the estate as a widow's dower. At the time of his death, the Union Bank of Florida in Tallahassee valued Parkhill's real estate holdings at \$138,300; his personal property was valued at \$4,400 which included furniture, live stock, farm equipment, and 2,020 bushels of corn. In addition, 383 bales of cotton were worth \$14,000. Since Parkhill's acreage and slaves were mortgaged to the bank, the court allowed the widow to claim only one third of the personal property which gave her 127 bales of cotton

2. Farquhar Macrea, "Soils and Agricultural Advantages of the Floridas", *Farmers Register*, 1835, vol. 3, p. 516.

3. *Tax Book*, 1839, Leon County Court House. Probably more or less of this land was not cleared.

4. *Deed Record, Book A*, p. 271; *Book D*, p. 445; *Book E*, pgs. 265, 370, 624, 772; *Book F*, pgs. 314, 407; Leon County Court House.



... Two chivalric sons of a wealthy cotton planter on Lake Jackson near Tallahassee. . . .
'Now, young masters, stop this weeping, go fight for your country like men, and mind-
don't disgrace me'."

Published by STARS, 1954. Though this was published in derision by the NEW YORK NEWS, the participants, and the South, were content with rather than ashamed of its implications.

stored in the warehouse of the "Railroad Depot near the City of Tallahassee."⁵

Parkhill also owned 1,383 shares of stock in the Union Bank. The bank filed suit against his estate on grounds that by the provisions of its charter, each stockholder was entitled to a loan equal to two thirds of the amount of his shares, provided that notes covering repayment with interest were renewed annually. Parkhill had made loans against the entire amount of his shares before his death, and he had never renewed his note or paid interest on it. Thus, this planter played no small part in the ultimate failure of the bank for t never could recover all that he owed. Meantime, his unfortunate widow, Martha Ann, who actually realized very little from his estate, purchased, in 1843, a small piece of property southwest of the city, and later that year married Hiram Manly of Apalachicola.⁶

The financial story of Benjamin Chaires is somewhat different from that of Parkhill, even though Chaires followed the same general pattern in regard to buying land. The *Tax Book* for 1839 lists his estate as comprising 9,440 acres of land, eighty slaves, \$800 worth of pleasure carriages, and as paying a Territorial Tax of \$110 and a County Tax of \$86.

Chaires died in 1838, leaving his property to his wife and children. ". . . to my beloved wife Sarah Chaires . . . my mansion or dwelling house and 500 acres around it, . . . my household furniture, carriage and horses and negro man Henry, the carriage driver; also one tenth part of all my personal estate". He had ten children and five of them were still minors at the time of his death. Apparently Chaires felt no affection for his son-in-law, William Burgess, the husband of his daughter, Mary Ann, for he did not include her in the one tenth share but left her a

5. "Inventory of the Personal Estate of Samuel Parkhill, Deceased, Not Mortgaged but Set Apart as the Widow's Dower", *Court Record*, 1842, Leon County Court House.

6. "Petition of the Union Bank of Florida, Filed 5th April, 1845", *Court Record*, 1842, Leon County Court House.

**Administrators Sale.
WILL BE SOLD,
AT PUBLIC AUCTION,**



ON the 3d Monday of September next, at 9 o'clock, in the forenoon, at the Auction Store of Henry Michelett, in the City of Pensacola,

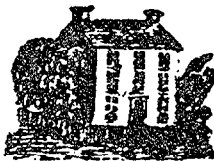
A Negro Woman & Child,

The property of Henry Shepherd, Esq deceased. Terms made known at the time and place of sale.

Clark Jackson,

Ad'mr.

FOR SALE,



A Valuable
HOUSE & LOT,

On Palifox Street, in an eligible situation for a store or dwelling house—Cash, Negroes or Groceries, will be received in payment, or a reasonable credit given with good security—Apply to

From THE FLORIDIAN, Pensacola, Sept. 13, 1823

sum of \$10,000 to be paid her "whenever her husband . . . shall die, and not before . . . It being my express desire that said William Burgess shall not have any part of the same or enjoy any benefit whatsoever".

Chaires appointed his brother, Green Chaires, and his son, Joseph Chaires, as executors of his estate. Green and Joseph must have disapproved of Burgess too, for they gave Mary Ann five female negro slaves, and a horse and barouche with harness. However, it was distinctly understood that they would hold this property for the separate use of Mary Ann, free from the control of William.

By 1845, the plantations of the Benjamin Chaires Estate were still intact, and the County Court authorized property division among the heirs. This included about 10,000 acres, numerous slaves, together with the crop of provisions at each of the plantations, live stock, including horses, mules, cattle, hogs, as well as plantation utensils of all kinds.⁸

Some other plantations of average size were those belonging to Hector Braden, Edward and Thomas Bradford, John Branch, William and John Craig, H. B. Croom, Alfred Gatlin, William Lester, Jeremiah Powell, John Shepard, Robert Williams and others.

Since Alfred Gatlin and Jeremiah Powell were typical planters of average size holdings, perhaps they should be mentioned. Gatlin is listed as having only about 1,000 acres in 1839 and thirty-five slaves, but by the time of his death in 1841, he had considerably increased his holdings. His widow, Sarah Ann, petitioned the court for one-third of his estate because she preferred the division made to her by law, rather than the share left under her husband's will. In addition to his plantation and about seventy slaves, Gatlin had a house and property in Talla-

7. "Will of Benjamin Chaires, June 12, 1835", *Index to Estates, Book One*, File No. 31, Leon County Court House.

8. "The Petition of Mrs. Sarah Chaires, Widow and Legatee of Benjamin Chaires", *Court Record*, 1845, Leon County Court House.

hassee. His personal property was reported as including two carriage horses, five mules, twenty-six head of hogs, twenty-one head of cattle, 514 bushels of corn, 3,000 lbs. of fodder, as well as other items. Like so many of the other planters in Leon County, Gatlin's property was mortgaged to the Union Bank which took fifty-three of his slaves in payment of his indebtedness.⁹

Jeremiah Powell came to Leon County about 1830 and started buying land. By the time of his death in 1839 he owned 2,700 acres and forty-five slaves. He had made his will in 1838, leaving his estate to his wife and six children. It was his wish that they should be maintained, clothed, supported and well educated from the proceeds of his two plantations, which included his home plantation northeast of Tallahassee where he and his family lived. Powell kept most of his slaves at his lower plantation, known as "Pleasant Grove," which was located nearer the Jefferson County line. He also left an annual gift of \$100 to the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Leon County Circuit for ten years after his death.¹⁰ For some time afterwards, the bank sued the Powell heirs and tried repeatedly to take possession of Pleasant Grove Plantation.¹¹ It was supposedly a policy of the bank to make loans only on land which was secured by the additional collateral of slaves.

A good example of land speculation during this early period was the firm of Nuttall, Braden and Craig. Many transactions made by this firm are recorded in the Leon County *Deed Records*. In 1833, the firm bought a whole township for \$46,520, consisting of 23,040 acres, which was a grant made by the United States Government in 1825¹² to General Lafayette. Nut-

9. "In the Matter of Assignment of Dower of Sarah A. Gatlin, Widow", Leon Superior Court, 1842.

10. "Will of Jeremiah Powell", *Court Record*, 1838, Leon County Court House.

11. "Union Bank vs. Powell Heirs", *Court Records*, 1846, Leon County Court House.

12. *Deed Record*, Book K, p. 74.

tall, Braden and Craig expected to make a profit of \$60,000 on the transaction. Though the firm did sell off the land, most of their returns were promissory notes payable ten and twenty years later. The indenture for this transaction stipulated that the money was to be paid in full before January 1, 1844. However, in the late 1850's records show the Lafayette heirs were still trying to collect money due them.

John Gamble, of Leon County, played an important part in the cotton industry as planter and banker during this early period. Gamble was president of the Union Bank and was most anxious that planters borrow on cotton at home instead of abroad. He believed that they should have a more lenient system of credit than was the current practice. His argument was that southern bankers usually advanced the money that moved forward the whole crop on letters of credit. Bills of exchange were forwarded to the foreign market, often reaching their destination and maturing before the cotton arrived. Gamble claimed that this situation caused cotton to be forced on the market in foreign ports whether or not the price realized for it was desirable. He thought the great southern staple was without protection and that the banks in southern seaports should arrange six month loans at home so that cotton would not be sent to market accompanied by a bill of exchange which required an immediate sale, regardless of the condition of the market.¹³

Gamble, as president of the bank, was partly responsible for its failure during the late 1840's. As in the case of Parkhill, previously mentioned, the bank did not observe the limitations of its charter, and money was frequently lent without the necessary security. When the effects of the financial crisis of 1837 began to be felt, mortgagors were unable to make their payments to the bank or renew their notes. At the same time,

13. "Cotton Convention", *Niles Weekly Register*, vol. 57 (Baltimore: 1837) p. 185.

the Territory itself was unable to pay interest to holders of the Territorial bonds, popularly known as faith bonds. The Territorial Legislature demanded an investigation of the bank, but no significant findings were ever reached. Actually, the bank was the political victim of its directors and stockholders who were powerful members of the Territorial government.¹⁴

As the financial condition of the bank went from bad to worse, Gamble began a series of law suits against persons owing the bank. The 1841-1846 *Court Records* in Leon County show the astonishing amounts which were due the bank and in most cases it held no collateral security. Some examples of these suits are those against Richard Call for \$18,000, George Walker for \$16,000, Robert Hackley for \$19,000; but in Hackley's case, \$8,000 was recovered from the proceeds of the sale of negroes.¹⁵ At the same time, various persons filed suit against the bank for amounts they could not collect. To make matters worse, in some instances, mortgaged slaves were taken out of the Territory so that liens could not be made against them. One interesting complaint made by the Union Bank against B. A. Neal, states that the "said negroes were removed, fraudulently and feloniously . . . aided and abetted by others at present unknown." Another such complaint charges James Trotti with unlawfully removing his slaves from the Territory in 1841, after he bought stock in the bank in 1838.¹⁶

During this early period, St. Marks was a seaport for all Middle Florida and lower Georgia. Ellen Call Long described the port as it was about 1830 as she traveled into the area on her way to Tallahassee as a "quaint little village, amphibious-like, consisting of a few dwelling houses, stores, etc., mostly built on stilts or piles, as if ready to launch when wind or tide

14. Warren G. Fouraker, *The Administration of Robert Raymond Reid*, A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Florida State University (Tallahassee: 1949) p. 28.

15. *Court Records*, 1841-1846.

16. "Union Bank vs. B. A. Neal, Running off Negroes", 1843. "Union Bank vs. James F. Trotti", 1841, *Court Records*.

prevailed.“¹⁷ Vessels came into Apalachee Bay from foreign ports and the northeast United States, bringing merchandise to supply the settlers. Before 1835, cotton and other agricultural products grown by the planters were usually taken down to St. Marks by wagon. Small boats lightered the cotton and other merchandise to and from the ships which were anchored out from shore. Cotton, tobacco, hides, syrup, brown sugar, molasses, and other products were taken to the port in exchange for flour, coffee, gunpowder, bolts of homespun, quinine, calomel, castor oil, and other needed items.¹⁸

Leon County planters and business men soon realized that a more practical means of transporting their cotton to St. Marks must be developed. The result was the Tallahassee Railroad Company, formed by a group of Leon County men including Green Chaires, Benjamin Chaires, R. K. Call, Sam Reid, Leigh Read, Samuel Duval, John Shepard, Samuel Parkhill, John Parkhill, and others. In 1834, one hundred nineteen stockholders petitioned Congress for permission to construct the railroad, having already obtained a charter from the Legislative Council of Florida.¹⁹ The old fort at St. Marks and the land adjoining it came into the possession of the United States by the Treaty of 1819. The petition stated that the fort which was erected in 1759, was in a state of dilapidation and ruin, and was originally designed as a defense against the neighboring Indians, but not to defend the bay and harbor of St. Marks from attacks by sea. The petitioners wanted one hundred acres of land at St. Marks and a strip of land one hundred feet wide from St. Marks to Tallahassee on which to construct the railroad. They presented a letter to Congress, written by Lieutenant George Long, Artillery Engineer, directed to General Richard Call, President of

17. Ellen Call Long, *Florida Breezes; or Florida New and Old*, (Jacksonville: 1882) p. 35.

18. W. T. Cash, "Newport as a Business Center", *Apalachee, The Publication of the Tallahassee Historical Society* (Tallahassee: 1944) p. 25.

19. "Memorial of the Tallahassee Railroad Company", *Senate Documents, 2nd Session, 23rd Congress, vol. 2, 1834-35, Document 267, no. 38, p. 1.*

the Tallahassee Railroad Company in which Long stated that "The only direction in which an enemy could ever arrive to disturb this section of the country . . . must be from the sea. The fort is of no consequence for the Government to retain for military purposes".²⁰

In a letter dated April 19, 1835, to General Charles Gratiot, Chief Engineer of the United States Army, from Captain William A. Chase of Pensacola, Chase recommended that a railroad be constructed from Tallahassee to St. Marks "so that the business of trade as well as the customs could be transacted with every facility at Tallahassee".²¹ The following year the line was built, and for several years loads of cotton were taken regularly from Tallahassee to St. Marks by this horse drawn train.

Middle Florida exported 338 bales of cotton in 1827. From this meager beginning, the export grew to 15,870 bales in 1834. However, by 1840, this figure had increased to 32,000 bales with the greater part coming from Leon County.²²

It was soon discovered that the soil was especially suited for the growth of Sea Island cotton, which was superior to the short staple because of the length of its fiber. Although the Sea Island variety required more space per acre for cultivation, its market price per pound was about twice that of short staple. H. B. Croom wrote from his Lake Lafayette plantation in 1834 that an average of six hundred pounds of long staple cotton was produced per acre and that it was not uncommon for eight hundred pounds to be realized. The short staple variety, under favorable conditions, yielded about fifteen hundred pounds to the acre.²³

20. *Ibid.*

21. *William A. Chase Papers*, 1835, Leon County Court House.

22. *Statistics of the United States of America, Collected and Returned by the Marshals of the Federal Districts* (Washington: 1841) p. 409.

23. H. B. Croom, "Some Accounts of Agricultural Soil and Products of Middle Florida in a Letter to the Editor", *Farmers Register*, vol. 2, June, 1834, p. 3.

To quote Farquhar Macrae again:

The cotton crop has never failed in Florida. The crop of the present year (1835) will, notwithstanding the early and unprecedented frost, nearly double that of 1834. Most of our planters are reaping unusual returns . . . a planter working only forty servants can make and house in one crop 450,000 pounds of fine staple upland cotton, besides 3,000 bushels of corn, and some 20 barrels of sugar and syrup-leaving his crop of oats, rice, potatoes, untold! - and yet this is done in *Middle Florida* . . . the fortunate planter is my respected neighbor, Daniel Bird, Esq. of Jefferson County. The other gentleman is Col. Robert Gamble . . . who will this year realize from 65 acres of land, which have been for the last six years under continued cultivation of sugar cane (the most exhausting of crops) upward of 70 bags of cotton . . . minimum crops on our good and bad soil are never less than 600 pounds of cotton per acre.

Macrae also wrote that his fellow citizen, Green Chaires sold \$13,000 worth of cotton in 1835 made by twenty-two laborers.²⁴

Slaves

Prosperity in the culture of cotton was being reflected in high market prices which enhanced the value of slaves, especially good field hands. In 1835 Thomas Bradford paid \$600 for a certain Negro boy named Mingo aged about seventeen years.²⁵ In caring for slaves, planters were largely motivated by self-interest. However, it sometimes happened that through a feeling of genuine devotion slave owners stipulated in their wills that their negroes be freed. The will of William Oliphant, dated 1827, is unusual in this respect. Oliphant requested that his negro man Monah and his four children be allowed all the privileges of free persons of color and that \$250 was to be paid each

24. *Op. cit.*, Macrae, "Soils and Agricultural Advantages . . .", p. 571.

25. *Deed Record*, Book D, p. 575.

of them to cover transportation costs to a free state of their choice.²⁶

The law supposedly protected the slave from unduly harsh treatment. An interesting example is a case against Thomas Gaskins, overseer, for "unlawfully, willfully, knowingly and maliciously . . . with a heavy and large stick of wood cruelly beating the slave and breaking and fracturing the bone". It was not uncommon for slaves to be stolen. In 1831, William Wyatt, a planter in Leon County, sued John Pearce for stealing his negro slave, Jack, worth \$500. Pearce pleaded not guilty but the verdict of the court was guilty, and he was sentenced to thirty-nine lashes. Another example of stealing slaves is the case against Aaron Dyer, a yeoman farmer, for stealing two negro women worth \$900 from Henry Thompson of Magnolia.²⁷

Slaves were often hired to neighboring planters. In 1832, Gideon Green rented his three negroes, Ester, Susan and Henry to Parson Hays and William Kerr for the sum of \$85 for a year.²⁸ It was stipulated in this agreement that the slaves were to be furnished with two suits of clothes each, a hat and blanket and a pair of shoes apiece. To safeguard the health of negroes on the plantation, it was highly important that their clothing be carefully looked after. Field hands were required to wear hats during the summer months and sleep in comfortable beds with sufficient cover on cold winter nights.

Plantation Supplies

Apparently, most of the supplies for the plantations in Leon County were furnished by several general merchandise stores located in Tallahassee. One such store was the firm of Gamble and Reid. The purchases made from this store by General Leigh Read in 1839 included 555 yards of bagging for \$161, bolts of

26. "Will of William Oliphant, 1927", *Leon County Court Record*.

27. "William Wyatt vs. John Pearce", "Henry Thompson vs. Aaron Dyer", *Leon County Court Records*, 1840-1843.

28. "Gideon Green vs. Harp & Kerr, 1832", *Leon County Court Record*.

suiting and homespun, 932 pounds of rope for \$140, nails, and osnaburg, a course cloth; also numerous smaller items such as whiskey, red flannel, brandy, irish linen, paper flowers, ribbon and shoes. Read's plantation must have been small because his purchases for the entire year in 1838 amounted only to \$941.²⁹ Payment in cash seems to have been rare, but at the same time, merchants always added their carrying charge to the planter's bill. In 1841, Gamble and Reid of Tallahassee sued Read for his past due account of \$2,000 some of which was interest long overdue.

Another general merchandise store which catered to the planters was the firm of Parish and Byrd. An interesting list of purchases made by Frederick Smith from this store included a pair of pantaloons and one fine hat at \$8.00 apiece, soap, olive oil and almonds; also numerous cash notes paid out for Smith and cash paid to his Negroes in merchandise. As an example of such an entry: "Paid Asa in mds. 75 cents; this amt. lent him cash, \$1.50; paid Edmund in mdse. 25 cents".³⁰

Even though bagging, rope, pork, sugar, coffee and molasses apparently were the most frequent plantation purchases, sundries of various kinds were nearly always included.

The firm of Laudeman and Sheffield in Tallahassee offered a variety of services in addition to general merchandise. Some of the accounts from this firm are: "to digging grave, furnishing plank, \$10, to making coffin \$30; to keeping mare 5 weeks for Jesse Hines, deceased, no charge". Jesse Willis, Turbut Betton, Robert Butler and other well known persons had accounts with Laudeman and Sheffield. Some of these accounts were not paid and had to be taken to court for collection. An interesting complaint against this firm made in 1831 states that the "small coffin and rough box that Laudeman charged \$15 for was not worth

29. *Account Book of Gamble and Reid*, Leon County Court House.

30. *Ledger of Parish and Byrd*, 1839, Leon County court House.

75 cents.”³¹ However, Laudeman and Sheffield had printed on their account book, “Never insult the unfortunate, especially when they implore relief or assistance. If you cannot grant their request, refuse them mildly and tenderly”.

Nearly everything connected with the plantation was bought on credit. No matter what the price of cotton might be, the planter had to have his supplies. As a consequence, mortgages increased as debts mounted against him. Although the Leon County planter realized unusual returns from his crops during the period 1830-1840, part of this was due to an over-all prosperity in the cotton market, and the fact that land was not yet exhausted. Also the prices of land and of slaves was less in Florida during this period than in other cotton areas of the South. Perhaps the profits in planting have in many instances been exaggerated, but there is no doubt that certain Leon County planters made much money in the production of cotton in this era.

31. *Account Book of Laudeman and Sheffield*, 1831, Leon County Court House.

FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST FOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

First Prize to Sandra Lewis, Dan McCarty High School, White City.

HISTORY OF WHITE CITY, FLORIDA

In 1893, White City was first settled by a man named Pio, who was Danish, and his assistant, Mr. Myers, and they named it. Pio originally got the name from the World's Fair City in Chicago in 1892. The Florida East Coast Railroad was coming through at that time and they advertised in Northern papers for people to settle along the route. The railroad paid each family five dollars and each bachelor three dollars to settle there.

Mr. Myers then laid out White City and they had a big celebration the first of May in 1893 and advertised to sell the land. Pio died in June and Myers skipped out with the money that belonged to the settlers. The Railroad Company store in St. Augustine then gave the people credit. They used coupon books to get groceries. The first store was built by an Englishman on the bank of the St. Lucie River. The supplies were shipped down the river on the steamboat "Lillian". The captain was Mr. Madison and the pilot was Mr. Schutz. They got their supplies from Titusville and went all the way to Stuart. The Railroad then took over the store and furnished the fertilizer, seeds, and tools for farming. They also gave credit for two or three years. The crops were good but between Christmas and New Year's of 1893 it turned cold and all the crops died. Many settlers left but a few returned and brought their families with them.

White City was then a wilderness and to build or farm they had to clear a place. The woods were full of wild life such as deer, turkey, whooping cranes and other game birds. It then took two hours to go to Fort Pierce. The people took a hoe and shovel with them when they went to make a way through the underbrush. There were only a few trails and in most cases you made your own trail.

The back country was the cattle land. They let their hogs and cattle run wild, and they built fences to keep them out of their gardens. In fact, when the early settlers first saw White City, it seemed to be all sand, forest, snakes, and mosquitoes. The Railroad men were not paying them any more and the only way they could get money was to farm. The main crop was pineapples and they took them in to Fort Pierce, which at the time, had only two stores.

The people officially celebrated White City's first birthday on the sixteenth of December, 1894, on the east bank of the St. Lucie River. They had a large pavilion and picnic grounds where they danced and had fun. There were between 150 and 200 people in White City at that time. The river overflowed every fall and flooded the grounds until they got tired of fixing it afterwards. It had so many bends in it, the water could not get out fast enough, and it all backed up and flooded most of the people on the east side. Finally, the river was straightened some, and it does not run over any more.

FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONTEST

49

The Indians spent a great deal of time here and often camped by the river. They gave no trouble and the whites traded with them. One of the Indian chief's name was Tom Tiger.

They had a ferry across the river that they pulled back and forth by ropes. There was one for foot passengers, and one for horses and wagons. The first boy born in White City was N. W. Jorgensen, our county commissioner in 1953. The first girl was Anna Larson.

In those days there wasn't much money and the women made their clothes from calico. Calico was then only five cents a yard. They made palmetto hats with flowers on them and were considered dressed-up. The men wore about the same as they do now but they did not have as much or as good clothes as we do.

The first school was held in the old restaurant that was built during the boom by a Mr. Spencer. They used the restaurant tables and benches. During the second term they were able to get seats, blackboards, maps, and charts from Brevard County. White City was in Brevard County at that time. Mrs. Little was the first teacher and later the school was moved to her front porch. The second term Clair Sogaard taught.

The first school house in 1898 had only two rooms that were always full. It included the first through the eighth grades. After the eighth grade, the children went to Fort Pierce. They walked, or rode a pony. Another teacher in White City was Mr. Smallwood. They ran out of room in that school and had to build a new one, which is the present school in White City. Mr. C. E. Cahow built it in 1927, the architects were Hatcher and Funke. The Board of Public Instruction were: A. M. Sample, Chairman, J. E. Seese, Murray E. Hall, Mrs. Edgar Lewis, Superintendent. A little later, the old school house burned down. In case of fire then all they could do was to get a pail of water and try to put out the fire the best they could.

The first Post Office was run by Mr. Olson. The postman sometimes walked with the mail to Ankona, about five miles, though some did ride on a horse or in a horse and buggy. Some of the first mail carriers were Mr. Bell, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pomeroy. The Post Office was in the Englishman's store.

The White City Presbyterian Church was organized on June 4, 1924 and called "The Dutton Memorial Church". Originally, it was the W. C. Union Church, sponsored first by Rev. George E. Dutton, who started by having Sunday School services in 1893, but it was not regular until 1898. Among the ministers who volunteered their services during the past years are as follows: Rev. Blanchard, Baptist; Rev. Chapman, Methodist; and Rev. McCombs, Presbyterian. Originally, services were held in the local school house, but in 1915, with the citizens cooperating with the Ladies Aid Society and the Presbyterian Board, they were able to build the present church building. The Charter members were: Rev. H. W. McCombs, Mrs. Dutton, Mrs. Platts, Mrs. Jorgensen, Ross, and Miss Dorothy Platts, Helen R. Rowe, Mr. Jorgensen and Mr. Harris.

The first doctor was Dr. Platts, and his nurse was Mrs. Jorgensen.

There were two trains going by every day then. One went to Ankona and the other to Jacksonville.

The first car belonged to Mr. Hammon from Boston. It was a Ford. Mr. Sorensen then got a truck and Mr. Stretcher of New York, a car. Mr. Sorensen also built the present day White City Store.

St. Lucie County was organized in 1907 and White City was part of the County, with Fort Pierce as the county seat

For entertainment, there were suppers and dancing in the club house. If anyone was even suspected of drinking they were thrown out. The music they had to dance by a violin, accordion and piano. They had one motor boat to which they fastened other boats and went up the St. Lucie River for supper, telling stories, and having other fun.

White City is the only pioneer colony of Florida that is still in existence, and it is still growing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Personal interviews with the following: Mrs. N. C. Jorgensen, Mrs. Clairra Christensen, Mrs. John Waldron, Mrs. Helen Waldron.

For other winners see *Minutes of the Annual Meeting* (post). There were 54 papers entered from 13 Florida high schools.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the Annual Meeting of the Jacksonville Historical Society on May 12, James A. Austin was reelected president, Dr. Raymond H. King first vice president, Karl Bardin second vice president, Miss Martha Lee Segui recording secretary, Miss Florence Morrish corresponding secretary, Miss Dena Snodgrass treasurer, Miss Audrey Broward archivist, and Herbert Lamson historian.

Two papers prepared for the meeting and relating to Jacksonville history were read. Mrs. Bessie Solee Sanderson told of her own experiences in the Jacksonville fire of 1901, and J. K. David, who moved to Jacksonville in 1899 from Syria, related the story of families from the Near East.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

This Association has had a full season of meetings and marker dedications. On March 7 a plaque was unveiled marking the site of the Biscayne House of Refuge. Speaking before a large attendance were President Adam G. Adams, Chairman Oliver Griswold, Mayor Harold Shapiro of Miami Beach, and Captain S. P. Swicegood, Commander of the Coast Guard District.

The 49th Program Meeting of the Association was on April 20 commemorating 75 years of progress in the development of the electric lamp.

The **President's News Letter** has appeared regularly. The last issue, the sixth, was a report by President Adams on the Association's history and accomplishments, with plans for the future which are definite and noteworthy.

The 50th Program Meeting was held on June 8 together with the Annual Meeting of the Association. The principal address was by Dr. Arnold B. Grobman, Director of the Florida State

Museum, on "A Contemporary Approach to Florida History," and a large collection of Indian relics were shown.

The election of officers resulted in: president Thomas W. Hagan, vice president Ernest G. Gearhart Jr., 2nd vice president Robert M. McKay, executive secretary Justin P. Havee, recording secretary Donald J. Wellenkamp, corresponding secretary Virginia Wilson, treasurer Edwin C. Bishop, librarian Mrs. Andrew J. Moulds, editor of *Tequesta* Charlton W. Tebeau.

THE ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Much of the *Progress Report* for 1953 of the St. Augustine Historical Society is interesting to other Florida societies. Two research projects in progress are: a study of St. Augustine architecture, and one of specific sites and buildings for an extensive marker program. "To implement the program the Society has employed a scholar competent in the fields of archaeology, history, and interpretation. We have also completed a detailed plan for a museum to form a narrative of St. Augustine history. We have acquired a number of excellent books on Spanish Colonial Architecture. . . We have also acquired from The Library of Congress additional volumes of the *Escripturas* covering wills, deeds and other legal documents of the period 1817-1821, which Miss Emily Wilson has indexed and partially translated."

The St. Augustine Preservation and Restoration Association has undertaken the restoration of the Llambias House which has been deeded in trust to the City of St. Augustine, a project in which the Society is aiding and will take over its maintenance.

The Fornells House which is owned by the Society has been restored in order to recapture a character long lost. This is the third historic house to receive preservative treatment by the Society.

THE TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Tallahassee Historical Society was a joint host of the

very successful Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society on March 26, 27. Three tours were arranged by them for visitors the day previous: through the Capitol, to other historic points in Tallahassee, and to Natural Bridge Battle Ground. Several of the papers read at the program sessions were by members of the Tallahassee Society, one of which is included in this issue of the *Quarterly*.

THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of The Florida Historical Society was held at Tallahassee on March 26 and 27, at the invitation of The Tallahassee Historical Society and Florida State University. Our members and visitors came from various parts of the State including Miami and Pensacola; and there was a large attendance at the program meetings from the Tallahassee district. So it was one of our most successful meetings.

On Thursday afternoon three tours were held to: The State Capitol, other points in Tallahassee, and Natural Bridge Battle Ground.

Our Board of Directors met that evening and a report with recommendations was made to the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday.

Vice President J. Velma Keen presided on Friday morning. The invocation was by the Reverend Sam Neel, Chaplain, Florida State University, and President Doak S. Campbell bid us welcome to the campus; to which President Blocker responded.

Three papers were read: Dr. R. L. Goulding's of the University *Extracts from a Key West Diary*; Dr. Mark F. Boyd's on *Ft. Scott, A Window Overlooking Florida*; and Mrs. Julia Hering read *The Plantation System of Leon County, 1830-1840*.

Vice President Charles T. Thrift presided at the luncheon in the Suwannee Room of the University, and there were reports from local and regional historical societies.

Our former president Richard P. Daniel presided at the afternoon session, with papers *Richard Keith Call, Pioneer Floridian* by Herbert J. Doherty, University of Florida; *Tampa in 1898* by William J. Schellings, University of Miami; and *William Augustus Bowles and the State of Muscogee* by Lyle N. McAlister, University of Florida.

Later in the afternoon our members and visitors went out to the noteworthy Goodwood plantation for tea.

President Blocker was toastmaster at the banquet, also in the Suwannee Room, and the address was *Florida as an Independent Nation* by Col. William Morrison Robinson Jr. (Ret.).

Dr. Rembert W. Patrick presided at the Saturday morning session and the papers were: *Marco Island, Recent History* by Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami; *The Tampa Morning Tribune and National Issues, 1900* by Dr. J. Ryan Beiser, University of Tampa.

Several of the papers read will be published in our *Quarterly* from time to time.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society followed, the Minutes of which is included herewith.

The Society is grateful to the Tallahassee Historical Society and Florida State University and especially to the committee which planned and carried out everything so successfully. These were: Dr. Charles S. Davis, chairman, J. Velma Keen, co-chairman, Dr. Mark F. Boyd, Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Dr. Arlie Rhodes and Margaret Ann Blocker.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Florida State University, Tallahassee, March 27, 1954

President John C. Blocker declared a quorum present and called the Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Historical Society to order at 11:00 A.M.

The first order of business was a telegram from Mr. W. S. Beasley offering the Drew home at Ellaville as a gift to the Society. President Blocker appointed the following as a committee to look into the question of the Drew home and report to the Board of Directors: Charles S. Davis, J. Velma Keen, Mark F. Boyd, David Dunham, Elon C. Robison, Dena Snodgrass and Edward C. Williamson.

The treasurer's report and the budget for 1954-1955 were both read and approved. (*see post*)

Mr. Boyd presented resolutions on the deaths of Miss Mary Douglas Lewis and Albert Hubbard Roberts, of Tallahassee.

(*post*)

Miss Snodgrass read a resolution of thanks to Mr. Boyd, to which he expressed his humble thanks and appreciation. (*post*)

The President's report was the next order of business. (*post*) President Blocker then handed the treasurer application blanks and checks for twenty members.

The report of the nominations committee was made by Richard P. Daniel, *Chairman*:-

President - Charles T. Thrift, Jr., Florida Southern College

1st Vice president - J. Velma Keen, Tallahassee

2nd Vice president - David R. Dunham, St. Augustine

Recording Secretary - Dena Snodgrass, Jacksonville

Executive Secretary - Edward C. Williamson, Gainesville

DIRECTORS

First district - Walter P. Fuller, St. Petersburg

Third district - Occie Clubbs, Pensacola

Fifth district - Harley L. Freeman, Ormond Beach

Seventh district - Edward T. Keenan, Frostproof

Director-at-Large - Virgil M. Newton, Jr., Tampa

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami, *Chairman*

T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Pensacola Richard P. Daniel, Jacksonville

John E. Johns, Stetson University John C. Blocker, St. Petersburg

Mr. Dunham, nominated for Second Vice president, stated he would accept for that office alone, having no desire to advance to the presidency. There were no nominations from the floor and the secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented.

Charles T. Thrift, Jr., took the chair.

Mr. Williamson reported on the essay contest. The following were judged by the committee as winners:

First Prize - \$50.00 defense bond

Sandra Lewis, Dan McCarty High School, Fort Pierce, Florida, "History of White City, Florida."

Second Prize - \$10.00

Mary Elizabeth Falck, Bishop Kenny High School, Jacksonville, Florida, "Zephaniah Kingsley, Famous Floridian."

Third Prize - \$5.00

Patricia Jean Tessman, Palm Beach High School, West Palm Beach, Florida, "Living History and a Living Historian."

Mr. Blocker moved that it be recommended to Mr. Yonge that the essays be printed in the *Quarterly*. Amendment was made to read: the essays or digests thereof be printed in the *Quarterly*. Motion was seconded and passed. During the discussion of the motion Mr. Williamson brought out his hope that a *Junior Quarterly* be initiated within the foreseeable future. Mrs. Kohl of West Palm Beach offered to pay the expenses of duplicating (by mimeograph) the winning papers and any others judged worthy.

An invitation was received to meet in Daytona Beach as guest of Daytona Beach and Volusia County Historical Society in 1955.

The St. Augustine Historical Society extended an informal invitation for the Florida Historical Society meeting in 1956 on the occasion of the Society's centennial.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 M.

JOHN C. BLOCKER

DENA SNODGRASS

President

Recording Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT, 1953-1954

JOHN C. BLOCKER, President

To The Board of Director and the members of The Florida Historical Society:

As outgoing President, I think you are entitled to have a

brief report of activities during the year just concluded.

1. The Society is now enjoying the largest membership in its history. We have more than 860 members and library subscriptions to the *Quarterly*. This has only been accomplished through the aid of fellow officers and of you members. There was instituted for the first time, last Christmas, an opportunity for the members to give a membership in the Society, as a Christmas gift to a friend or relative; many responded. It is hoped that this plan will be carried forward for the next Yuletide period. Miss Dena Snodgrass, our late long-time member Albert H. Roberts, J. Velma Keen, T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Edward Keenan, Mrs. Franklin L. Ezell, our Secretary Edward Williamson, and others have been conspicuous in sponsoring applications for membership. Each member is urged to be ever conscious of the need of increasing the membership of our Society. As a final gesture on membership, I hand you herewith 20 new members from St. Petersburg, making our grand total as of now 880 members and library subscriptions to the *Quarterly*.

2. During the year, the Board of Directors, in view of the generous donation on the part of Past President, Richard P. Daniel of the sum of \$50.00 for prize money, instituted an essay contest among the high-school students of Florida, the object of the contest is to encourage them to write essays on some event of local history. The response was most gratifying and we received fifty-four papers and the Committee will soon announce the winners. This is a fine medium of gaining the ear and the intelligence of the high-school students and will serve many purposes in future years. Every student entering the contest is a potential member in years to come. It is sincerely hoped that this program will be continued for many years and in order to insure its operation for the ensuing year, your President donates the sum of \$50.00 as prize money. To insure the contest for the following year Mrs. James T. Hancock of Okeechobee has donated \$50 also.

3. For the first time you have received a *Newsletter*. This idea originated with Edward Williamson, our Executive Secretary and Librarian. The purpose of it is to supply you with fill-in information on happenings and news between issues of the *Quarterly*. We hope you have enjoyed it and that it can be continued.

4. I wish to personally thank the many contributors of material for our Library during the past year. In this connection, Julien Yonge, the Editor of the *Quarterly*, has made some worthy suggestions: "The Library is the cornerstone of the Historical Society". No truer words can be said and, as pointed out by Mr. Yonge, the building of our Library has been somewhat neglected in former years. It is suggested that special recognition be given these benefactors, and others be urged to contribute to the resources of our Library, as Mr. Yonge further adds: "there still is much undiscovered material in the State relating to our early days and it should be procured." If any of you know of any person who has any material, turn in his or her name and use your best efforts to have it forthcoming for our Library.

5. I wish to personally thank the Officers and Directors for the splendid cooperation given me during the year - without your aid and assistance the growth and progress of our Society would not have been accomplished. I would like to particularly compliment Edward C. Williamson, who has done an outstanding, capable, and efficient job, as Executive Secretary and Librarian. He is willing, energetic and intellectually alert for the good of the Society at all times.

6. I would like to recognize and thank, for and in behalf of the Society, Dr. Charles S. Davis, chairman, J. Velma Keen, co-chairman, Dr. Mark F. Boyd, Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Dr. Arlie Rhodes and Margaret Ann Blocker for the interesting program of our Annual Meeting which they planned and carried out.

7. The matter of the Society sponsoring a history of Florida to be written by some of its members and with the view of

having it taught in the elementary grades of Florida schools, should not be abandoned but should be carried forward as one of the unfinished items of business. In this connection, your retiring President, volunteers his services for that purpose and if commissioned by the new Board of Directors, will undertake the task.

8. The Society should give serious thought to obtaining financial aid from the State of Florida through appropriate legislation. Without burdening you with detail, it is a fact, however, that historical societies in many of our Southern States receive many thousands of dollars annually from legislative appropriation. If a plan could be carried out whereby State aid could be obtained, and the autonomy of the Society maintained, for practical purposes, this, in my opinion, would be a proper solution of our problem; such a proposed piece of legislation was drafted by your President and submitted to your Board of Directors at its meeting here on March 25, 1954 with the recommendation that it be considered by that body and carried over as an unfinished item of business for the new Board of Directors.

9. It would be amiss not to pay just tribute to Past President Mark F. Boyd who was commissioned by this Society to conduct a research and to prepare a report of historic sites in and adjacent to the Jim Woodruff Reservoir. The National Park Service granted the Society \$500.00 for which we are indeed grateful. His paper on this subject has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution which, I am advised, will publish it.

10. The activity of local historical societies has been stressed and publicized from time to time in the *Quarterly* and need not be repeated here, suffice it to say that there has been a renewed activity in such groups, particularly in Jacksonville, Daytona Beach, Tavares, Miami, Pensacola, Tallahassee and St. Lucie County, all of which is most encouraging and is evidence that historical interest is being activated throughout Florida at the local level.

11. Under the head of official visitations, your President visited the Historical Association of Southern Florida and gave a paper entitled "Piracy in Southern Waters" at its Annual Meeting in Coral Gables on January 14, 1954.

12. Our First Vice-President, Charles T. Thrift, during the month of May, while your President was abroad, participated, as a representative of the Society, at the unveiling of a tablet commemorating the settlement of the Townsend House Church Community in Pasco County, for which Dr. Thrift and the Society received many compliments from that community.

In conclusion, I wish to again thank you individual members and the officers for the contribution of your generous efforts, on behalf of the Society and your President, in making this one of the outstanding years of achievement of the Florida Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. BLOCKER, *President*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

March 24, 1953 -March 23, 1954

Balance: March 24, 1953		\$1,795.06
Location of balance:		
Florida Bank at Gainesville	\$ 891.37	
First Federal Building and Loan	818.69	
Cash on hand	85.00	
	<u>\$1,795.06</u>	
Receipts:		
Membership dues	\$2,328.00	
Library subscriptions to the <i>Quarterly</i>	482.40	
Fellow dues	310.00	
Institution dues	100.00	
Books sold	67.00	
Student members	8.00	
National Park Service	450.00	
Richard P. Daniel	50.00	
<i>Quarterlys</i> sold	125.10	
Interest	28.73	
Total receipts		<u>\$3,949.23</u>
Total to be accounted for		<u>\$5,744.29</u>

Disbursements:

Printing of <i>Quarterly</i> , 4 issues	\$2,398.00	
Printing (other)	208.73	
Books purchased and memberships	84.63	
Book repairs	45.55	
To Yale University for books sold	59.50	
Library of Congress cards	16.33	
National Park Service Project	500.75	
Office and library supplies, box rent, postage, news-letter, mimeograph ma- chine repair, bank service charge, taxes, express	281.23	
Annual meeting expense	43.00	
Total disbursements		\$3,638.62

Balance March 23, 1954: \$2,105.67

Location of balance:

Florida Bank at Gainesville	\$ 858.25
First Federal Building and Loan	1,247.42
(Endowment Fund)	

\$2,105.67

BUDGET

March 24, 1954 -March 23, 1955

Cash balance, checking account, March 24, 1954 \$ 858.25

Estimated income:

Membership dues	
Annual	\$2,640.00
Libraries (subscriptions to <i>Quarterly</i>)	444.00
Student	8.00
Fellow	400.00
Sale of <i>Quarterly</i> (single copies)	100.00
National Park Service (owed on Jim Woodruff Historical Project)	50.00
Interest from endowment fund	36.00
Total estimated income	\$3,678.00

Total available funds \$4,536.25

Estimated expenses:

Publications:

From members	\$2,500.00	
From <i>Quarterly</i> subscriptions	400.00	\$2,900.00
Printing (other)		200.00
Annual meeting expense		50.00
Books, bookbinding, subscriptions and dues		125.00

THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

63

Office supplies and general expense	200.00	
Essay contest (expenses)	50.00	
News-Letter	50.00	
Total estimated expense		\$3,575.00
Estimated balance, March 24, 1955		<u>\$ 961.25</u>

RESOLUTIONS

MARK F. BOYD

During the past twenty years years Mark F. Boyd of Tallahassee has made many contributions to the recorded history of Florida. Notable among these are his co-authorship of *HERE THEY ONCE STOOD*; his definitive articles published in the *FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY* and other journals; his services as Historian, Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials and his historical survey of the Jim Woodruff Reservoir Project.

Dr. Boyd has been a member of the Florida Historical Society since 1933 and has served actively in various official capacities. He was elected to the Presidency in 1946 and his splendid leadership revived the Society following a period of dormancy during World War II; be it therefore

RESOLVED that The Florida Historical Society, in annual meeting assembled, this March 27, 1954, express its appreciation to Dr. Boyd for the great service he has rendered to the Society and to the history of Florida

- - -

MARY DOUGLAS LEWIS

Whereas, Miss Mary Douglas Lewis of Tallahassee, a member of the Florida Historical Society since its revival, has recently passed to her reward, and

Whereas Miss Lewis was always a devoted and esteemed member of the Society, whose absence from our gathering is keenly felt and lamented,

Be it Resolved by the Members of the Florida Historical Society assembled in Tallahassee in the 1954 Annual Meeting that this expression of their appreciation be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting, and a copy sent to the bereaved members of her family.

- - -

ALBERT HUBBARD ROBERTS

Whereas, Albert Hubbard Roberts, one of the Florida Historical Society's oldest members in interest and service, having been with us since our revival more than thirty years ago, having served as a director for many years, and as a contributor of noteworthy articles to our *Quarterly*, and as a member of our Nominating Committee for this Annual Meeting; and

Whereas through the years he was devoted to the interests of the Society, and has recently passed to his reward,

Be it Resolved by the Members of the Florida Historical Society assembled in Tallahassee in the 1954 Annual Meeting, that this expression of

esteem and appreciation of his faithful service be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting, and a copy sent to the bereaved members of his family.

PASCUA FLORIDA

Today, March 27, marks the beginning of Pascua Florida, so named for the Easter Season, or the Festival of the Flowers, during which time Florida was discovered by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513.

This week has been designated Florida Week, and April 2, the day of discovery, Florida Day, by executive proclamation.

Because of the value of Florida's history in all phases of life in the growing state, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Florida Historical Society, in annual meeting assembled, this March 27, 1954, publicly point out the opportunity of commemorating the State's vivid past in the observance of this week and day.

Members who came to Tallahassee for the Annual Meeting

From Daytona Beach

Mrs. John E. Hebel

DeLand

John E. Johns

Arthur C. Nielsen

Gainesville

David Dowd

Herbert J. Doherty

Freeman H. Hart

Mrs. M. H. Latour

Lyle N. McAlister

George C. Osborn

Rembert W. Patrick

Samuel Proctor

Arthur Thompson

Edward C. Williamson

Donald E. Worcester

Jacksonville

Richard P. Daniel

Fannie Holt

Dena Snodgrass

Homosassa

Mrs. J. A. MacRae

Lakeland

Charles T. Thrift, Jr.

Miami

Justin P. Harvee

W. J. Schellings

Frank B. Sessa

Charlton W. Tebeau

Okeechobee

Mrs. J. T. Hancock

Ormond Beach

Lucile Bailey Mahieu

Palm Beach

Mrs. Clyde W. Fisher

Mrs. Henry Lavinia Kohl

Pensacola

Mrs. T. T. Wentworth, Jr.

T. T. Wentworth, Jr.

Quincy

Elise Lafitte

Col. William M. Robinson, Jr.

St. Augustine

David R. Dunham

St. Petersburg

John C. Blocker

Mrs. Nina Hill Blocker

Walter P. Fuller

Shady Grove

Mrs. W. T. Cash

Tampa

J. Ryan Beiser

James W. Covington

Jesse L. Keene

Warrington

Mrs. Maude Hollowell

Bainbridge, Ga.

Frank S. Jones

Cuthbert

Mrs. Emilio Suarez

Tifton

Donald G. Lester

Jamestown, N. Y.

Dr. F. K. Weedon

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1953: 711 members and library subscriptions, March 24, 1953

Losses March 25, 1953-March 26, 1954

13 resignations (10 members, 3 libraries)

7 deaths

19 dropped for non-payment of dues (9 members, 10 libraries)

5 changed from annual to fellow

44 total

Gains March 25, 1953-March 26, 1954

41 libraries

10 fellow members

4 institutional

161 annual members

216 total - members and subscribers

1954: 883 members and library subscriptions, March 27, 1954

7 life members

4 institutional members

40 fellow members

692 annual members

4 student members

136 library subscriptions

883 total - members and subscribers

THE LIBRARY - A PROPOSAL

We have made a noteworthy, a surprising increase in membership, and this is now larger than ever before. We are proud of that, but our library is important, too. Membership comes first and we cannot let down there, for we must expect to lose members continually and would die without new members. Also, we should have in mind a home for our Society sometime in the future. But shall we not emphasize our library now.

There naturally is a tendency to consider the building up of the library as of lesser importance because the University has an extensive library of Florida history in the same building. But some day we might not be there. Also, a library is the cornerstone of a historical society. Also, too, the collection of Florida historical material during the early years was almost entirely neglected, so now there is much to be done. Should not our library have our constant thought and our earnest efforts to make it what it should be.

To further this, would it not be well to make some recognition of those of our members who give extra help in the work of building-up the library, - perhaps call them *Benefactors of the Library* (or a similar name) giving the title to each member who donates some kind of Florida historical material, or who gives five dollars or more specifically for the library.

A By-law would not be necessary for such a category of the members, for this is only an honor-roll, and imposes no new duties on the members. The Annual Meeting could establish this roll by resolution, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

A section of the *Quarterly* might be included in each issue with notes on this library drive, with the names of recent *Benefactors* and a mention of all contributions of material or funds. Our *News-Letter* is another medium. The *Benefactor's* name

would be inscribed on his contribution - whether it is historical material itself, or a purchase with his donation.

There still must be some undiscovered historical material in the State, of our earlier days. Such a drive should bring some to light. But historical material of the present day also should be procured, and many members are in a position to do this if they were told what is desirable.

Contributions of money are of great importance, for books especially; but for manuscript material also, for much of that now finds its way into dealers hands, and it has become generally known by the public that such has money value. Also much has to be copied on microfilm, which is sometimes expensive.

The Society should have a projector for reading film, as films are becoming the most important source for historical research. Perhaps some *Benefactor*, or a group, might donate one. Often owners do not wish to part with their historical material, especially if it relates to their ancestors, but only a few object to having it filmed.

Our income from dues will never be adequate for the purchase of historical material; so to build up the library, specific contributions are necessary. The donor should feel that he is giving some particular item which is needed and that that item is appreciated. His name added to our roll of *Benefactors* might help.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE OF THE QUARTERLY

HERBERT J. DOHERTY JR. has a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of North Carolina. He is Assistant Professor of Social Sciences, University of Florida.

MRS. JULIA F. HERING is a resident of Tallahassee. She has a Master of Arts degree in history from Florida State University.

